

Bonds of a Dragon

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Summary: Things in Berk continue as normal, until Stoick is called away on business. Something doesn't sit well with Hiccup, and being a viking, trusting your instincts is key. What he discovers however, is more than he bargained for, and will test rider and dragon to their limits. (May update the name, once I can think of a better one. This one was the first to pop into my head.)

1. A Morning Flight

****Hiccup:** In Berk, honesty is everything. It takes a real viking to own up to his mistakes, and admit that he was wrong. Though, for every viking, this is not the easiest thing in the world due to pride, no one wants to be caught in a mistake or being wrong, so there is a sense of blaming it on the poor guy who happens to be standing next to you at the time...But secrets always have a way of coming out...one way...or another.**

The familiar growls, and on the roof was all too familiar. Toothless was up early once again, wanting to go for their morning fly. Sitting up in bed, Hiccup smiled and stretched, taking a deep breath, which brought on a yawn. The sun had barely begun to rise over the horizon, but that was the way Toothless liked it. The crisp morning air, the still and silence left over by night, the sunrise on the water. He sometimes thought about asking Astrid to come with them, but he doubted waking her up so early in the morning without warning was such a good idea. He moved to the window, taking a deep breath. A smile formed on his lips, and he looked up to see Toothless peeking down over the edge of the roof at him. When he saw him looking back, he tilted his head, and gave another hop on the roof, causing flecks of dust and dirt to lightly rain down. Hiccup laughed and lightly coughed, waving his hand to clear it away.

"Alright, I get it" he laughs.

Moving back to the bed, he kneels and slides a hand around under his bed. He knew he had placed it there last night...Ah! He pulls out the

familiar saddle for Toothless, sitting it up on the bed. The two had gotten back late last night, after having gone to explore the outer reaches of Berk. There was sea beyond their land, and day by day, Hiccup and Toothless were getting more curious, and itching to find out what lay beyond. He heard a slightly frustrated growl, and glanced out the window. Toothless was getting restless to get going already. Luckily, he had used the roof as a wake up call this time, rather than bouncing up and down on Hiccup's chest. He still had a few bruises from the last time. His hand lightly pressed over his chest, and he smiled. He wouldn't give this up for anything...

Toothless was bouncing off the side of the hut and the trees as Hiccup finally came out. He crouched down, wiggling his wings and lower half slightly as he prepared to pounce. Lunging forward, Hiccup placed the saddle between them just in time to protect himself from being hit head on, as the large dragon knocked him over. He seemed to purr slightly, as he nuzzled his muzzle into the side of Hiccup's neck and his shoulder. Hiccup laughed, and barely managed to push the powerful beast's head away from him.

"Ok buddy, ready to take to the skies?" he asks, sitting up slightly.

Toothless roared, hopping back, and turning in a full circle once, before placing his back to Hiccup. He looked back at him, seeming to smile, and he shifted from foot to foot impatiently. It was amusing to see the dragon so eager to get going, and Hiccup was happy to oblige. He placed the saddle on the dragon, kneeling for a moment to fasten the strap and to make sure the foot control was working in top condition. They would be in danger if it went out mid-flight, as they had seen through man trial and error of getting it to work in the first place. Inspecting his tail-piece a bit, Toothless once more gave a frustrated growl. He was more than ready to spread his wings. Since all seemed to be in order, Hiccup climbed up on his back, and clicked his prosthetic foot into place on the control. He leaned down to lightly pat the side of Toothless' neck.

"All set bud"

The dragon did not need to be told twice, opening its' massive wings, and shooting off into the sky with a force that made Hiccup's ears start to ring. The rush of air blowing at his hair and stinging his eyes enough to make them water a bit, and he closed them. There was a sort of churning in his stomach, from adrenaline and excitement, he always got when they did this. The thrill and rush of actually being on the back of a dragon, and miles above the ground or sea was one that definitely stuck with you. They leveled out, and Toothless gave a happy roar. This calmer flying allowed Hiccup to open his eyes once more, and look down at where they were. Berk was below, moving by quickly. Seemed Toothless was heading out to see, though they usually stuck close to land in the early mornings, every once in a while, they went out to see the water. This morning, it was beautiful. The sun's light reflected from it, bathing it in a warm glow, as well as the sky and clouds above.

This...was one of the best things about flying. From the ground, you could only see so much, but from the air, there were so many new scenes to behold and everything was so new. Toothless gave a little noise, and Hiccup looked down at him to see the dragon watching him a

bit. He smiled, and rubbed the side of his neck again.

"I'm ok, just enjoying the view...never gets old" he says warmly.

The dragon seemed to understand, and flew down to the water. He tilted his massive body slightly to the side, dipping his wing's tip into the water. Hiccup leaned down, doing the same with his fingertips. The water lightly sprayed up against them, and his smile grew.

"Alright, show me what you got" Hiccup challenged.

Toothless roared, and straightened his body, darting up into the air once more. He headed towards a series of rocks on the side of Berk, and Hiccup held on tight. They weaved their way through, the movements precise and sharp, through lots of practice. Hiccup did not even need to really speak, as Toothless knew what to do, all he had to do, was make sure he kept up with the tail. They finally broke away from the rocks, and Hiccup laughed, sitting back and opening his arms to the rush of wind and the land that laid out before them. He gave a slight victory whoop, and Toothless answered with a loud roar. They had done a lot of training to get better, and it was paying off. He leaned back in, and took ahold of the front of the saddle once more.

"Let's see the other's top that...not even Alvin can stop us now" Hiccup mused, though it was more on the rush of the flight.

He knew the Outcasts were a threat, and nothing to trifle with. He had to be careful and on his guard, Alvin was still after him, and the dragons. Toothless did not seem to mind his little quip, and opened his mouth. A blast of his fire shot off into the clouds, and gave its' usual explosion. Hiccup looked down at Berk, wondering if they were waking anyone with their noise. It was probably a good idea to call it a morning, but Toothless still looked like he had energy to burn.

"We could check on the island for dad, make a quick round before heading home" he offered.

This seemed to be alright, for Toothless allowed himself to dive slightly closer to the island, and began to fly over it. His large eyes shifting from side to side, looking around at the view. Hiccup looked around too. The sheep were being let out to pasture, to graze. The yaks were up and moving as well too. There were no signs of anything out-of-place at the moment, and Berk was beginning to wake up as usual. A few people waved at Hiccup and Toothless as they passed, but as they flew over the forest, and the one house that stood all alone the friendliness ended. Mildew glared up at the Nightfury and his rider with disgust.

"Get that beast outa here!" he yelled, waving his stick "nothing but trouble I say!"

"Morning to you too" Hiccup said quietly, but directed Toothless back towards the village.

Toothless grumbled a bit at the older viking's words, and glared a bit now. Hiccup knew the dragon did not like the man, none of them did, and for good reason to.

"It's ok buddy, he's just not a morning person" Hiccup says with a smile, "then again, he's not an any time of day person."

Toothless gave a slight throaty dragon laugh, and they dived back down towards the village. They landed in the middle, and a few people glanced at them. Toothless did not pause to let Hiccup off, walking along back towards their home. Everything seemed to be going well this morning, that was good. He was glad that Berk was at peace for now, though as they approached home, it did not look like it was going to stay that way. Stoick was already up, and heading towards Thornado. He looked to serious to be on a casual flight.

"Oh boy...time to find out what's up"

Stoick was placing some bags on Thornado's saddle, before hopping up. He saw his son approaching, and his look softened a bit.

"Dad, what's going on?" Hiccup asked, sliding down from Toothless' back.

The chief of the village looked down at his son for a moment, as if choosing his words. With a sigh, he figured his son would find out one way or another.

"Alvin has been causing trouble north of Berk, seems he's calling for a meeting" he says.

That did not sit right with Hiccup.

"He can't be trusted" the young viking says to his father.

Stoick nods, "I have a ship following me, and with Thornado, we should be alright."

Hiccup turned towards the house, "give me like five minutes and I'll be read to-"

"Your staying here" his father says sternly.

Tootless looked between the two, as Hiccup turned to look at his father.

"What, but I have taken on Alvin plenty of times, and two dragons plus me would be better than going in alone" Hiccup protested.

Stoick took ahold of the reigns, "I won't be alone, besides, your place is here...for the academy, your friends...and for me."

Hiccup sighed. He knew his father ment that he wanted him to be safe, he would not risk Alvin getting his hands on what he wanted. Hiccup gave a slight nod to his father.

"Be safe...come home soon" he says.

Stoick nods, and pulls on the reigns, causing his dragon to take off into the air. Hiccup stood watching the form of his father fly away on the dragon. Toothless seemed to feel his nerves, and moved forward. He pushed his nose up to Hiccup's hand, and the young viking

looked down at him with a warm smile.

"Don't worry buddy...everything will be alright...I hope" he sighed, there was nothing left to do now...but wait...

2. A Possible Motive

There was no point in staring at the sky forever, and Hiccup had his own duties to attend to. The others would be awake by now, and most likely awaiting him at the ring. He sighed, and turned away, looking at Toothless. The dragon tilted his head slightly, looking up at Hiccup with bright eyes. Hiccup was thankful for the dragon, for they had been through a lot together, and shared a bond and friendship few would understand. Without Toothless, Hiccup felt he would be missing a big part of himself, he could not imagine losing the other. Could he imagine losing his father? He shook his head, closing his eyes, and placing a hand over them.

"Stop that" he told himself, "everything will be alright."

Toothless tilted his head even more, questioning with his gaze, as to why his rider was talking to himself. Peeking through his fingers, Hiccup caught sight of this and laughed. He then made his way to the other's side, and climbed back on.

"Let's go bud, the others are waiting" he adjusted the tail.

As soon as it hit the right position, Toothless was off in the air once more, and heading towards where they would discover their friends. Sure enough, they were all there. Astrid was petting Stormfly, who looked to be very pleased at being made over. Fishlegs was getting Meatlug to do small tricks, by feeding her various stones and such. He then broke into an all too familiar hugging session with the dragon, causing Hiccup to chuckle a little. His smile vanished a bit when he noticed Snotlout using one of his medals to create a light on the ground. Ruffnut and Tuffnut were staring at it, from their position by their dragon. All four heads moved in unison, tilting one way, then the other as it moved slowly from side to side. When it finally stopped, Tuffnut looked over at his sister, and they both gave a slight smile and laugh, before diving forward at the light. It only darted away, and left the two to ram helmets together. Snotlout busted into laughter, slipping from where he leaned against Hookfang, and falling over.

Hiccup rolled his eyes, they were an odd bunch indeed. All of them had their quirks, but they seemed to make a good team, as long as they could stand each other long enough. Toothless spiraled down a bit, and landed, letting Hiccup hop off. Tuffnut looked up, pushing his helmet back into place.

"Hey, look who finally decided to show" he said.

"Ha ha, I have a perfectly good explanation as to why I am late, unlike others most of the time" he tossed a glance in Snotlout's direction as he spoke.

The other viking caught it, as he stood up, and marched over to Hiccup, buffing out his chest in his usual manner. Snotlout was always trying to seem bigger, better and badder than Hiccup, trying

to outdo him and seem better at everything.

"And what's that supposed to mean?" he challenged.

"Oh nothing" Hiccup mused, turning to pet Toothless as he came over, "just if you spent half as much time on training as you do at looking at yourself in any reflective surface, you might actually become a good rider."

Snotlout gave him a dark look, stepping forward to say something, his fists clenched. Astrid moved in the way, keeping them apart. She did not feel like listening to Snotlout trying to manage a snappy comeback, or decide his fists would be good enough. She looked over at Hiccup, as the twins walked over with Fishlegs.

"So, what is this reason you kept us waiting for?" she asked.

"probably couldn't get his door open..weakling" Snotlout chided with a huff, turning away and crossing his arms.

Hiccup rolled his eyes again, "my father left earlier on Thornado...seems Alvin is up to something in the North, and has demanded a meeting with him."

Astrid raised an eyebrow, "why would Alvin want a meeting with your father...their like mortal enemies."

"Maybe he got his helmet stuck" Tuffnut shrugged, "I do it all the time when Ruffnut slams me into the wall...watch."

He lowered his head, and his sister grabbed ahold of the back of his shirt, quickly moving forward to the wall, and smashing him headfirst into it. The horns of his helmet getting stuck. Ruffnut moved away, dusting her hands off with a smile, which mirrored on her twin. Astrid sighed a bit, shaking her head slightly at the two of them.

"Oh boy" Hiccup sighed, shaking his head.

Fishlegs turned to him, and lightly tapped the tips of his fingers together. He swallowed, and looked like he was a bit nervous.

"D-did you say...North? As in, the northern seas?"

Hiccup turned his attention on him, "I guess so, all he would tell me was North...why?"

Fishlegs swallowed, "well, it may just be a rumor but..."

Astrid clapped him on the back, "spit it out already."

"It's a hotbed for Scauldrons and Sharkworms" he blurts out, then covers his mouth.

Hiccup's look turned serious, "you mean to tell me, my dad may be heading into waters that are crawling with deadly and dangerous dragons?"

"Oh he's dead" Snotlout smirked, leaning back against Hookfang

again.

"Well, Scauldrons usually avoid conflict, but Sharkworms are another story...when faced with an enemy invading their habitat, who knows how they might react" Fishlegs said.

That was not helping at all, and only succeeded in intensifying Hiccup's nerves about his father being out there with only a ship of men and Thornado. He knew his father was tough, and so was his dragon, but against Alvin and the added bonus of sea-monster dragons...

"Maybe Alvin didn't know they were there" Ruffnut shrugs.

"Or maybe he does, and so does my father" Hiccup moved back to Toothless' side.

"Where are you going?" Astrid asked.

"Where do you think, I can't let him go in to this alone" he hopped up on Toothless' saddle.

"Oh no you don't" says a voice.

They all look up to see Gobber making his way into the stadium.

"Your father asked me to keep an eye on you" he says, "he had a feeling you'd find this information out one way or another, and go gallivanting off to 'save' him."

Hiccup sighed, sliding back off, "what am I supposed to do, sit around and wait till either my father comes home, or the empty battered ship just happens to wash up on shore?"

Gobber chuckled a bit, placing a hand on Hiccup's shoulder.

"You're a brave lad Hiccup, and wanting to protect your father is a noble thing. However, he is the head of the village, and can handle things on his own...he doesn't want you in danger, nor does he want you to have to come save him every time something happens" he says.

"So it's a matter of pride then, great.." Hiccup passed the others, heading for the opening.

Toothless lowers his head, slowly following his rider. Snotlout had not stopped smiling, finding joy in anything that made Hiccup angry or upset, it was like a unofficial one up for him. Ruffnut was attempting to pull her brother's head out of the wall, kicking him when she was unsuccessful. Tuffnut laughed, sliding his head out of his helmet. Fishlegs looked down, before turning to give Meatlug another big hug. Gobber sighed, and shook his head.

"Lad's got a good heart, and it's in the right place, but it may be his downfall" he says.

Astrid looked at the others, before taking off after Hiccup.

"Hiccup wait" she grabs his shoulder, "your dad is a strong and smart man...you need to trust him."

Hiccup turns to her, "I do trust him, it's Alvin I don't trust...he's up to something Astrid, and the way everyone is talking, I'm just supposed to sit around until he makes a move, which could be bad for my father, then what?"

"Then we make our move" she says, placing a hand on his shoulder. "We have faced him many times before, and all of them we have won" she smiles, "this is just another ploy to get at us, at you, and when the time is right, we will do whatever it takes."

Hiccup takes a deep breath, releasing the feelings that had built up inside of him. He was thankful for Astrid in many ways, this was one of them. She was level-headed, and always trying to think clearly and strategically. Toothless nuzzled his hand, and Stormfly gave a squawk, ruffling her wings. They both seemed to agree with Astrid, which made Hiccup smile and nod.

"When the time is right, Alvin won't know what hit him" he says.

3. Open Sea Attack

Waiting on Berk was one of the most boring things without a dragon. luckily for Hiccup, he had Toothless, as well as his friends...mostly Astrid at the moment. The two had decided to go for a fly, to get Hiccup's mind off of the discovery of his father potentially heading into Scauldron and Sharkworm territory, as well as facing Alvin. Stormfly and Toothless seemed to be enjoying the opportunity to stretch their wings as well. Astrid smiled at Hiccup, getting Stormfly to tilt slightly, so she swooped low under Hiccup and Toothless, coming up on his other side. She and her dragon moved in a unified graceful manner, which definitely helped to calm Hiccup's nerves. He laughed warmly, but still couldn't shake the nagging feeling in the back of his mind that something was really wrong.

"Don't worry so much" Astrid speaks up, as if sensing his feelings, "vikings have handled themselves long before we bonded with dragons, and your father has dealt with problems way worse than Alvin before."

Hiccup nodded, "I know, I know, I just can't help it. He's my dad, can you honestly say if it was someone you cared about, you wouldn't be worried?"

Astrid had Stormfly move a bit closer, to where the two dragon's wing tips were only inches apart.

"I care about your dad, he is the head of Berk after all, but I do see what our getting at, and it's natural" she says, "you just got to believe that everything will be alright, and he will come home safe."

It was easier said than done, and in matters like this, Hiccup had become rather impatient, and the more active type. Anyone who knew him from before the whole story with becoming friends with Toothless, or any of their adventures after, would have said in many ways, he was a whole new person. Hiccup had been always so eager to get out

there and kill a dragon, to become someone, and make his father proud, to show he wasn't a failure or just in the way. Now he was in a way a defender of Berk, and in charge of a huge part of its future. His father and him had just begun to start to try to understand each other, and grow closer, and now there was a potential that would all end in a matter of days. He trusted his father, and knew the older viking could handle himself, but at the same time, he was also a bit to stubborn and headstrong. He often thought he could take on anything and everything that came his way with force, instead of thinking it through, not that he would really listen to Hiccup if he was there anyways, but he would at least have some backup.

Toothless gave a sudden growl, looking down towards the water. Hiccup looked down as well, and realized they had flown a ways from Berk while he was thinking and talking to Astrid.

"Did you see that?" she said, staring with Stormfly down into the waters.

Hiccup looked closer, to see a black triangle like object rise up out of the water, heading in the same direction. A larger black mass was under it in the water. Hiccup tensed a bit, holding on tighter to Toothless.

"Sharkworm" he says.

"Out here?" Astrid says, looking over at him.

"It must be migrating back towards its' usual waters" Fishleg's words about the northern waters flowed back into his head.

"Dont some of them travel in packs?" Astrid asks, "then why is this one alone?"

"Good question, but I don't think we want to get close enough to find out" Hiccup answered.

"To late" Astrid pointed, her voice rising slightly in nerves.

Looking over, Hiccup noticed the fin of the dragon had changed directions. It was now heading in their direction, and the black mass under it was beginning to rise up under the water.

"Oh boy" Hiccup said, Toothless answering with a roar.

The dragon was massive in its body. It was long, though it did have smaller legs, similar to a Gronkle, with sharp claws. It's wings were folded tight against its' body, before quickly spreading and catapulting the dragon into the air. It's tail was more like a fish's, long, but with a forked fin like appendage at the back. The head of it was flat and wide, like a hammerhead shark, and as it opened its' mouth, those teeth were definitely not something Hiccup wanted to stick around for. Trouble was, although the dragon was massive, it was faster than they thought, shooting at them quickly. Toothless rolled to the side, as Astrid and Stormfly pulled to the other, in time to let the Sharkworm fly past them.

"Man, if that is what only one can do, I am starting to be glad its' not in a group" Astrid called.

She turned Stormfly to face the dragon, as it made a wide turn, and began heading back in their direction. Hiccup needed to think fast, they had studied a bit about Sharkworms, what was it again? The riders pull away once more, as the Sharkworm flies past. It lets out a roar of frustration at them pulling away from it. The sound sent goosebumps flowing over Hiccup's skin. He looks back at it, watching it make another turn to come around again.

"Any time now Hiccup" Astrid calls, Stormfly giving a squawk, and the spikes on her tail extend with the sound of a sword being drawn.

Hiccup recalled what Fishlegs had said when they had been studying them, "the Sharkworm relies more on its speed, and it's strength... it always needs to return to water, only able to stay out of it for ten minutes." He looks up, "that's it!"

"What's it?" Astrid asks.

"The Sharkworm has to stay near water, its' body dries out too fast, and it needs to be able to stay wet" he says.

"Which means, if we heat things up and dry it out-"

"Then it will have to return to the water to replenish before attacking again" he smiles.

Astrid nods, turning Stormfly, so they moved around to the side of the fast flying Sharkworm.

"Ready girl? Aim for as close as you can get" she says.

Stormfly opens her mouth, shooting off a stream of fire out towards the Sharkworm. It roared, trying to stop itself, as the heat flowed over its' massive body. Hiccup patted the side of Toothless' head and nodded, the dragon giving a slight roar, and moving around to the other side of it. He shot off a bolt of his own fire, hitting the Sharkworm in the side, causing it to drop a few feet closer to the water. Its' breath had become heavy, as its' skin was drying out from the heat of the two fire attacks. Its' wings slightly beginning to have trouble supporting it, it turned its' head up and roared angrily at the two of them. Hiccup was a bit surprised at how its' body had managed to take the hit from Toothless, and still be so active. He remembered Fishlegs saying they were very aggressive and territorial, so maybe the two of them had stumbled too close to its' home. He looked over at Astrid.

"We should get out of here while we can, head home for now" Hiccup called.

She nodded, and Stormfly turned back in the direction of Berk. Hiccup patted Toothless once more.

"Let's go home buddy" he says, and with a roar, Toothless followed suit.

He glance back to see the Sharkworm hovering over the water watching them fly away. It gave a roar, and rose into the air, before pulling its' wings in tight to its' body, and diving into the water. Hiccup

let out a breath, if this was the kind of thing his father had to face, along with Scauldrons on top of it, he was definitely going to have to do some major work to get his mind off of it, or he would do something crazy. Then again, most of the time, he ususally did something crazy anyways. This brought a small smile to his face, as adrenaline from the battle moments ago raced through his system. Astrid seemed to be feeling it to, she laughed slightly, having Stormfly dip again, and come up on his other side.

"Wooh...that will definitely wake you up for the day" she smiled.

Hiccup nodded, "though I could do without the almost being eaten part."

She laughed, "Imagine if the others had been there, I can just imagine how Snotlout would have freaked out."

Hiccup laughed to, imagining it for himself. Snotlout was always trying to seem bigger and stronger, but in man situations, he often fell flat on his face. Hiccup was glad that it had been Astrid with him, in a crisis, he could always count on her, and she was easier to talk to and joke with then the others. He looked over at her, the wind blowing over her and her dragon, making her hair blow back and lightly sway in the breeze. Her eyes on Stormfly, as she patted the blue dragon's head, before looking over at him. She brushed her hair back behind one ear, and gave him a smile as well. He felt a slight burn come to his cheeks, and a familiar feeling lightly bubble up in his chest and stomach, like his heart was going to burst. Clearing his throat, he smirked a bit.

"So, think your fast enough to beat us back to Berk?" he challenged.

She gave him a look and a mischievous smile, "just try to keep up."

4. A Shadow In The Night

Night had fallen, and Hiccup's friends had done their best to keep his mind off of his father. they were interested in hearing about the Sharkworm attack, especially Fishlegs, who went on and on about them until Snotlout threatened to beat his face in. Hiccup now laid in bed, the moon shining through his window. A candle burned low on the table next to his bed. He sighed, sitting up, and looking over at Toothless. The dragon laid peacefully on his large stone slab. He lifts his head to look over at the young viking, letting out a slight growl of concern. Hiccup pushed the blanket away, and stood. Moving over to the window, he looked out at the moon for a moment.

"I know I shouldn't be worrying, but I just...have a really bad feeling about this" he says.

Toothless moves to his rider's side, pushing his nose up into the boy's hand. He gave a slight purr sound, and nuzzled his hand. Hiccup felt better with the dragon by his side, he wasn't alone like he used to be anymore, when everyone only saw him as an annoyance and in the way. Toothless seemed to be a lot calmer and happier now as their friendship had evolved, though there was no denying the fierce dragon

spirit still lived on inside of him. Dragons were a growing part of Berk's life now. Toothless moved back to his slab, turning around in a circle, before laying down once more. He knew he should sleep, but he was more wide awake at the moment than anything. Glancing out the window once more, he noticed someone moving down below between the houses. Hiccup raises an eyebrow.

"Well that's odd..." he glances at Toothless, the dragon sleeping peacefully "I'll be back bud."

He slipped out of the house, staying in the shadows a bit as he moved closer to the other houses. The moon overhead helped to light things, so it was not as hard to see as other nights, for that he was thankful. There seemed to be no one out, but the figure Hiccup had seen couldn't have been a fluke...right? He runs a hand through his hair.

"Ah...I must be seeing things" he shakes his head, "I have really got to calm down."

He really needed to get some sleep. Stretching, he yawned a bit. A quick scope of the area would at least calm his mind enough to allow him to sleep. He made his way through the village, everything to be in order. A growl came from the barn in which Astrid usually kept Stormfly. He hurried, something was upsetting her. The door was ajar, and he pulled it open. The agitated dragon squawked, turning, and flinging her tail. Hiccup had to duck, to avoid being hit by the sharp spines that shot off.

"Whoa, easy girl" he held up a hand, slowly moving to her "it's alright, calm down."

Stormfly flared her wings, stumbling back a bit, and giving another loud roar. Hiccup reached up, managing to press a hand against her nose. She squirmed a bit, but he managed to begin calming her.

"That's it..." he smiled a bit.

The door creaked, and Astrid ran in.

"What in the world is going on?!" she noticed hiccup, "Hiccup, do you have any idea what time it is? What is wrong with Stormfly?" she moved to her dragon's side.

"Sorry, but something odd is going on" he says.

He told her quickly what happened , and about the figure. Between the two of them, they managed to calm Stormfly down, and soon the dragon was laying curled up against Astrid, purring in her sleep.

"Who did you think it was?" she asked.

He shook his head, "I don't know, but whoever they were, they obviously were not up to anything good."

Astrid looked down at her dragon, slowly petting along her head and the side of her wing.

"I'm glad Stormfly is alright, but if someone is sneaking around, we

should look into it" she says.

Hiccup nodded, standing. He moved to the door, looking out into the village once more.

"Well, their gone for now, we should get some sleep, and look into it in the morning with the others" he turned back to her.

Astrid nodded, "I think I'll stay here with Stormfly for the night, after this, she could use the company."

Hiccup was glad to see how strong the bond between her and Stormfly was, all the others had bonded strongly with their dragons, similar to how he and Toothless had bonded. Well, almost all of them, Snotlout and Hookfang were still working out the kinks.

The walk back to his home was more tiring than he thought after a stressful day and now tonight's excitement. He was glad to find his bed once more, and pull his covers up. Toothless lifted his head slowly, giving a lazy growl, his eyelids half-open. Hiccup chuckled lightly.

"Go back to bed bud, tomorrow we got work to do" he yawned.

The dragon lowered his head again, and Hiccup closed his eyes, letting exhaustion take over his body, and take him into sleep.

5. Forming A Plan

"So let me get this straight" Snotlout says, "someone is up at night, and you want us to go running off to find out who without anything to go off of?"

It was morning, and all the riders had made their way to the ring. Astrid and Hiccup had recalled the events of the night to them, and so far, Snotlout was being as difficult as always.

"Whoever they are, they messed with Stormfly" Astrid said, placing her fist in her hand, "which means they mess with me. I'm not going to let them get away with this."

Snotlout rolled his eyes, "oh real intimidating, don't worry sweetheart, let the men handle this" he smiled, flexing his arms in an attempt to impress her.

She glared, placing a hand on his face, and pushing him back. He tripped over Hookfangs tail, falling back. The twins laughed, and Snotlout glared up at them.

"What are you laughing at" he snaps.

Fishlegs looked over at Astrid and Hiccup, "who would want to be sneaking around at night, and especially go upset Stormfly?"

Silence fell for a moment, as they thought about it, and Snotlout stood dusting himself off.

"There is always Mildew" Astrid says, "he is always attempting to make trouble, and this sounds like something he would do."

"Maybe, but it seems a bit odd" Hiccup says.

"We could always ask him?" Fishlegs suggested.

"Oh yeah, like he would tell us" Snotlout pushed his way past the others.

Hiccup gave the other viking a bit of a look, "sadly, he's probably right. Mildew would be the last person to let us in on his latest scheme to get rid of the dragons."

"Lets spy on him" Tuffnut says, elbowing his sister.

Ruffnut pushes him away, and soon the two of them were wrestling a bit.

"That's actually not a bad idea" Astrid says, "We can take turns keeping an eye on him, see if he is up to something."

"And if he's not?" Hiccup asked.

"Then that's a good thing...right?" Fishlegs asked, tapping the tips of his fingers together nervously.

"Or, it could mean something worse is going on" Hiccup sighs a bit.

Things were deffinatly going wrong since his father left. They could deal with this, they had been through worse by now, glancing down at his false foot, he gained a bit of his confidence back. Taking on dragons, outcasts, danger and so much more, this was nothing. He smiled, and nodded.

"Alright, we will take turns keeping an eye on Mildew, but we can't use our dragons during unless absolutly necissary, he would get suspicious" he says, "meanwhile the rest of us can keep up things around the island, and get some training in the process."

Astrid smiles, and places a hand on Hiccup's shoulder, "your dad would be happy right now."

That helped to hear, "thanks, now who's first?"

Snotlout rubbed the back of his neck, looking away. The twins were still wrestling, and Fishlegs gave a nervous smile.

"I uh...was kind of looking forward to getting some shot training in with Meatlug" he says.

Astrid crossed her arms, "I'll do it, it was Stormfly who was taken on, so the faster I can find the one responsible, the faster I can pay them back."

Hiccup nodded, and looked at the others. They looked relieved to not have to be the first to take on Mildew. He couldn't really blame them, Mildew had to be most people's least favorite person on the island.

"Alright, lets get to work" he smiles.

Astrid took off, heading to go find Mildew. Hiccup and the others got on their dragons, taking off over the city. Stormfly stayed with them, enjoying the flight after the night's events, and wanting to help out as well. They checked on the sheep and the yaks, who were grazing in the fields. They seemed to be fine and calm, as well as the rest of the village. People were going about their business as usual, waving up at the riders when they passed overhead. Keeping busy and making sure things were running smoothly was a big help in calming Hiccup's nerves. He was feeling a lot better, and was no longer worried as much as he was. They landed near Gobber's shop. He was working on some weapons and a wheel for a cart. The others took off to keep up the work, and Fishlegs left to get a bit of practice in with Meatlug as he had mentioned earlier. Gobber smiled as he saw Hiccup and Toothless walking up.

"Aye, morning Hiccup" he says, waving the large stone attachment on his arm.

Hiccup smiled, and gave a slight wave, "how's work?" he asked.

"Going well, could you give me a hand though?" he nodded towards the large barrel of water in the corner.

Hiccup picked up the buckets by it and nodded, giving one to Toothless who took it in his mouth.

"We'll be back before you know it" he says.

"Thanks, big help. It would take me too long to go all the way down to fill 'em up and finish all this work to" Gobber wiped his forehead with the back of his hand. "How are you doing by the way?" he asked.

"I am better, not as worried, we're vikings. If we couldn't handle ourselves, we wouldn't have gotten by this long" he laughed.

Gobber nodded with a slight laugh. Walking out with Toothless, he climbed on and the two took off. They headed down to the beach, filling up the buckets. The two of them returned in time to the shop, but Gobber was not there. He emptied the buckets into the barrel.

"Gobber?" he called.

Toothless sniffed around a bit, "hmm, seems he's taken off."

He walked to the door, looking around a bit. He spotted Gobber speaking with another of the older vikings. Was something up? He walked towards them, but as soon as they saw him, the viking said goodbye and walked off.

"What was that about?" he asked.

"Just some words from the front...things are going well" Gobber says, though he seemed like he was holding something back.

Hiccup glanced at Toothless, who stared back at him with a puzzling look.

"Are you sure everything is alright?" he asks.

"Things are fine Hiccup" Gobber smiles, "now go on, I can take care of this."

He was a bit resistant to go, but he doubted he was going to get any more information from him for now.

"Lets go bud" he climbs back up on Toothless.

The two took off, flying back to catch up with the others. He was supposed to meet up with Astrid to take over watching Mildew before night, so it wasn't long, before he broke off to go. Toothless seemed a bit reluctant, but after a bit of petting he seemed to calm. Astrid was waiting near the trees near Mildew's house.

"Anything?" Hiccup asked.

Astrid sighed, and shook her head "so far nothing but him taking care of his stupid sheep."

She was happy to get going, wanting to see Stormfly. Hiccup was soon alone, moving to the edge of Mildew's home, it was as Astrid had said. Mildew and his sheep were inside. He leaned against the side with a sigh, slowly sliding down to sit. This was going to be a long afternoon.

6. Watching Mildew

Watching Mildew made the a thought cross through Hiccup's mind. Correction, THIS was the most boring thing to do on Berk, not waiting. He sighed, listening to the sounds of the old viking fawn over his sheep. It was really an odd relationship once he thought about it. He glanced up at the sky, a few clouds passing over head. It would have been a great day to go out and relax, maybe a leisurely fly. Instead, they had looked after the island, and now he was here. He sighed, nudging the dirt in front of him with his boot. Seemed Mildew really wasn't up to anything for the first time in...He noticed the sound of approaching feet, and stood. He could not risk being seen, so he moved around the back of the house. He peeked around the corner, careful to stay out of sight, when he noticed a tall dark looking viking approaching Mildew's home.

Hiccup raised an eyebrow, the viking did not look familiar, he was definitely not from Berk. If he was not from the village though, where did he come from. Hiccup pressed his back up against the wall, listening as a loud banging rattled the old stone house, causing the young viking to flinch.

"Open up you old cod!" the gruff sound of the unfamiliar viking's voice rang.

"Alright alright, I'm coming eh" Mildew snapped, "keep your voice down will ya, don't need all of Berk knowin yer here."

So no one else knew the viking was there? That was definitely not a good sign. Hiccup heard the door slam, and slowly crouched down, making his way back to the window. He was careful to remain unseen,

peaking in from the lower corner.

"Aye, Alvin aint to happy with you ya know" the gruff viking said.

The name made Hiccup's skin crawl, and a slight chill move through him. So, straight to the point. This viking worked with Alvin, and some how, Mildew was connected..

"How was I supposed ta know that fool of a man would fare so well against the dragons" Mildew's voice said.

looking in, he noticed the old man sitting, leaning on his staff a bit, as his free hand pet Fungus.

"Alvin don like ter be played, this plan has ter go down without a hitch, or it'll be yer head he's coming for next" the dark viking jabbed a sausage like finger at Mildew.

Hiccup shook his head a bit, he had to find out what this plan was, it obviously had to do with his father, but what. His hand moved to his head, as so many thoughts swam around. The Scauldrons, the Sharkworms, Alvin, his father being called off, the dark viking, and now Mildew...they were all connected, but how? Hiccup sighed, slamming his hand against the side of the hut in frustration. unfortunately, the stone he hit had been a bit loose, part of it snapping off, and falling to the floor. Hiccup froze at the sound.

"Aye, who's there?" the dark viking boomed, and made a rush for the door.

Hiccup had little time to react, he didn't think, turning and bolting towards the treeline. He prayed the two didn't see him, as he broke through the front section of trees and ran. His only thoughts on getting out of there, as his heart raced. Nerves were on a high, as adrenaline coursed through his body. This was not good, not good at all. He ran, soon finding himself out of breath, his leg with the false foot was a bit sore from the constant pounding while running. He leaned against a tree, taking rough gasp like breaths. His hand clenched over his heart, as he closed his eyes. That had been way to close for comfort. He was glad it was over though, he stepped away from the tree, but paused for a moment. What was that? He glanced back the way he had come to see the trees and brush rustling in the distance. He caught sight of a mass of dark messed hair under a large helmet, and a large husky form. The dark viking was coming.

"You have got to be kidding me.." Hiccup breathed, and turned, bolting once more.

This was definitely madness, and on the top of the list of things he did not see coming today. He ran, as fast as his legs would carry him. He was more familiar with the forests, being his homeland. He wove his way through, sliding down hills, and taking every shortcut or dizzying route he could, but the viking was gaining. He needed a plan, and fast. His mind raced, thinking where in the forest was the best place to hide. He smiled, and made a break left. He headed towards where he had housed Toothless back in the day, when dragons were still the enemy. There were many old trees out there, and one he was thinking of in particular. He had used to play there when he was

a kid. The base of the tree had a slight hole, just big enough for someone small and slender to get through. Under the tree where the roots were, there was a hollow hole about half as tall as him, but it was good enough.

He closed his eyes, his heart felt like it would burst any moment, and his throat was dry. Breathing sent waves of a burning sensation through his chest and lungs. He made a mental note to definitely get more exercise in if he survived this. He reached the clearing, jumping. He slid down a large hill, not stopping as he aimed for the tree. He slid through the hole in the base, and landed in the dark hole below with a thud. Dirt and bits of root showered down on him, causing him to cough, but approaching sounds caused him to cover his mouth. In mere moments, a pair of big black boots slid down the hill, and stopped a few feet in front of the tree. Everything went silent, as the only sound Hiccup could hear, was the sound of his own heart in his ears. He couldn't move, he wouldn't this was not good at all. The viking turned, listening to the world around him. Vikings were skilled in tracking and such, you had to be to fight dragons and such.

Then came the sound of more feet, and stumbling down the hill came Mildew, his sheep following not far behind.

"Aye, who was it, don tell me you let em get away?" Mildew said in his usual crusty voice.

The viking grabbed Mildew by the front of his clothes, "shhh...shut up, or get out of my way."

He pushed Mildew back, nearly causing the other to stumble and fall.

"Their here...I can feel it" the viking said, stepping closer to the tree.

Hiccup pressed back against the opposite wall of the hole as far as he could, his hands pressed up against it as well. The two were so close to him, if they found him... Mildew shook his head, leaning on the staff of his.

"Did ya get a glimpse of em?" he asked, though quieter than before.

The viking paused, "no, they were small, obviously knew this land...smart..but not smart enough."

He kneeled, brushing his hands through the dirt. Hiccup tensed, his tracks, and the slide marks. He had forgotten...the marks he had caused in the dirt, they were fresh, and would lead to... He swallowed. The viking pressed some of the soil through his fingertips, looking at it.

"They definitely came through here" he says.

Mildew rolled his eyes, but remained silent. The viking slowly stood, and Hiccup watched as his boots turned once again in the direction of the tree. Slowly, he approached. Hiccup's mind went blank, the viking was coming, and he was trapped.

7. Kinda The Same

The boots stopped right in front of the tree, he heard a large thump, the sound of the large viking hitting his fist against the trunk of the tree. It shuddered, more dirt and root chips showered down on Hiccup's head. He closed his eyes tightly, and waited for what was to come.

"Alright, lets get back" the viking said, turning away.

Ok? He had not been expecting that..

"What? You're gonna let em get away?" Mildew snapped.

The viking once more strode forward, grabbing the front of Mildew's shirt.

"Think about it you fool. Who's gonna believe em, if you're at home, and no other viking to be found hmm?" he said, shoving Mildew back.

The older viking glared at the larger one, as he moved back up the hill.

"Come on, we ain't got all day...we can talk on the way"

Mildew shook his head, but followed. Hiccup opened his eyes, to see Fungus standing still in the clearing. He was staring right at Hiccup under the tree. Hiccup swallowed.

"Come on Fungus, dinner sounds good yeah?" Mildew called.

The sheep gave a baa, and slowly turned to follow. Hiccup didn't know how long he waited, but he realized he had held his breath a lot in there. He let himself take a few deep breaths, before moving to the hole. Getting out was a bit tougher then getting in, it took a few minutes for Hiccup to manage with his leg, the soil kept giving way below. He stood, dusting himself off, glad to be free of the cramped space. He looked around, making sure he was in fact alone. Leaning against the tree, his mind began racing again. This...this was not what he wanted to hear, this was not what he wanted to be happening. He sighed, his father was definitely in trouble, and he was the only one at the moment who knew. The trip back to the village was slow, Hiccup needed some time to think, by the time he made it within view of his home, it was dark out, and the torches had been lit. He was not paying attention, so he failed to notice the large black dragon barraling towards him.

The impact sent him flying back onto the ground, as the heavy weight of the dragon on top of him gained his attention. Toothless was licking his face, giving growls and purrs of relief and happiness to see him back. Astrid opened the door to his home, hearing the commotion.

"Hiccup!" she rushed down the steps, soon followed by the others.

Hiccup managed to push Toothless off, laughing a bit. He turned a bit serious once more as he stood, Astrid throwing her arms around him in

a hug.

"We thought something had happened when you didn't come back before night" she says, pulling back.

"What happened to you?" Tuffnut said, looking over Hiccup's less than neat appearance.

"Roll in the mud?" Ruffnut asked, and they laughed.

Hiccup attempted to brush some of the dirt off, "no, and you wouldn't believe what I've been through tonight even if I told you."

"Try us" Astrid said, crossing her arms.

Hiccup glanced around a bit, a few stray people looking over at them.

"Ah, not out here, lets go inside.."

Astrid placed a bowl of hot stew and a mug in front of Hiccup once they were inside.

"Eat" she said, though her tone was more commanding than friendly.

Hiccup didn't need to be told twice, as he realized just how hungry he was. The others sat, getting comfortable, though Snotlout stayed leaning against the wall near the door.

"You gonna tell us or not?" he said.

Astrid shot him a look, "let him eat Snotlout."

Hiccup wiped his mouth a bit with the back of his sleeve, "I'm fine..he's right, you guys need to know."

"ooo...serious" Tuffnut said, leaning forward a bit near the fireplace.

Hiccup rolled his eyes, "Mildew is working with Alvin."

He didn't feel like sugar-coating it, he was too tired for that at the moment. Toothless gave a growl from the corner at the mere mention of the viking's name. The others froze.

"What...how do you know?" Astrid asked, wanting to get the facts straight.

Hiccup told them everything, from the time Astrid had left, to when he had gotten out of the hole and returned home. The others were silent. Only the sound of the fireplace was heard, as all of them were stuck in their thoughts. Snotlout pushed away from the wall, moving forward past Astrid. He slammed his hands down on the table by Hiccup.

"Are you sure that is what happened?" he said.

Hiccup glared a bit, "why would I make it up?"

"Uh I don't know" he gestured slightly with his hands, "maybe cause you've been bugging us about your dear old daddy since he left, and you want to have some excuse to go riding off to be the hero again."

"Oh and I suppose I decided to run around, rough and dirty myself up for good measure to" Hiccup countered.

Snotlout gave a sarcastic smile, "I don't doubt you fell on your face, happens a lot, kinda clumsy eh Hiccup?"

Hiccup stood, moving close to Snotlout, staring him in the eyes. He didn't care if he was in his personal space or not.

"My father is in trouble, and I do not really care what you think, one way or another I will save him..with or without you" he pushed past him, heading for the door.

Man he sounded a lot braver then he felt, his nerves were screaming at him. He had an even greater bad feeling then before, and he had no idea what he was up against. Astrid moved in the way, blocking the door.

"Will you calm down..both of you" she snapped glaring, "Snotlout you're a jerk, and Hiccup your hot-headed right now, both of you need to take a breath. It has been a long day, and Hiccup is in no condition to go anywhere tonight, especially alone, not that we would honestly let him anyways."

Hiccup looked at her, then slowly at Fishlegs as he stepped forward.

"She's right...You need rest Hiccup, and Snotlout is angry, cause his dad's out there to" he said quietly.

Hiccup paused, "what..."

He turned to face Snotlout, who was glaring at him.

"Yea...so what, my dad is out there to, one of the vikings on the ship your dad drug off with him" he said, "but the difference between me and this loser is my dad is a Jorgenson, and Jorgenson never lose."

He shoved his way past Hiccup and forced the door open, walking out and letting it slam behind him. It was silent once more. No one really knew what to say. Astrid placed a hand on Hiccup's shoulder.

"Get some rest...we can all meet in the morning at the academy and discuss a plan" she says.

Even Ruffnut and Tuffnut were silent, standing, they shared a glance. Slowly everyone left, leaving a sore, weathered and tired Hiccup alone with Toothless. He sighed, rubbing his neck a bit, as he turned. Toothless sat up, tilting his head with a curious look.

"I don't know what we're gonna do buddy...I really don't" he said, making his way up the stairs.

Toothless followed, moving to his rock slab, as Hiccup moved to a bowl. He poured some water inside, and slipped off his vest and shirt. He flinched, his shoulder hurt. He must have hit it quite a bit with all the day's action. He sighed, dipping a cloth in the water and attempting to wipe away some of the dirt and grime. The water felt nice and helped a bit, Toothless curled up and watched slightly, a bit of a worried look in his eyes. Hiccup did his best to clean up, before moving to his bed. He sat down, and just stared off into the wall for a bot. It was still hard to take in, they had guessed Mildew had something to do with it, but Hiccup had thought it would have been to obvious. Seemed some things were right in front of your face for a reason. He slowly laid back, groaning a bit as his sore body fought to relax. He didn't want to move, not even to blow out the candle or pull the covers up. He was exhausted, and before he knew it, he was asleep.

8. The Thing About Jorgensons

Hiccup didn't register it was morning, until he found himself staring into the big green eyes of a certain dragon. Tilting his head, Toothless attempted a smile. Hiccup smiled, and lifted a hand to pet the dragon's head. After a moment, Toothless turned and took off, rushing downstairs. Hiccup slowly sat up, stretching his arms above his head. He still felt stiff, but better, the day before felt more like a bad dream however. He sighed, and slowly managed to push himself up to stand. Toothless growled from down below, nudging at his empty fish basket. Hiccup knew Toothless was hungry, his own stomach growled a bit, he had not eaten much the day before. He made his way down the stairs, retrieving some fish for Toothless. He didn't hesitate to begin gobbling them down happily. Hiccup himself grabbed his bag, placing his sketch book, some bread and other food that would not spoil inside, and some charcoal to write with. He made sure to have something to drink as well, slinging the bag over his shoulder.

"Time to go bud" he said.

Toothless lifted his head, the basket on the end of his snout. Hiccup laughed, as the dragon looked cross-eyed at the basket, before flicking it off and sending it rolling across the floor. He opened the door, and didn't even have to tell Toothless twice, before he was bounding out the door followed by the young viking. He was ready to get going, the others were waiting for them, and he was not going to wait around forever to go see if things were alright. He climbed up on to Toothless' saddle, and clicked into the trigger for the tail. Toothless shot into the air, giving a slight roar as they took off. the rush of air on his face was just what he needed, refreshing and waking him up. He looked down at Berk, at his home. He was not going to let Alvin harm the people he cared about, no matter what it took. Toothless shook his head a little, and sped up towards the academy.

Just as expected, the others were arriving as well. He had Toothless spiral down and land. Hopping off, he felt everyone's eyes immediately on him. He forced himself to turn and face them. He could see all their faces, Fishlegs, Astrid, Ruffnut, Tuffnut and...wait...

"Where's Snotlout?" Hiccup asked.

The group exchanged glances.

"None of us have seen him since last night" Astrid said slowly.

"He's probably still steaming...I'd be steaming...If...ya know" Tuffnut rubbed the back of his neck.

His sister hit him in the arm, and he shot her a look. Hiccup looked down a bit, where would Snotlout go...unless. He sighed, turning back to Toothless.

"I'm going to go look for him, stay here" he patted the side of Toothless' head, and they took off.

The skies were clear, so far nothing. He flew over Snotlout's home, and nothing. Sighing, he pulled off over the forest. It was hard to see through all of the trees to good, so soon enough they had to land.

"Snotlout!" Hiccup called, Toothless giving a roar.

He listened for any sound, but the trees and the area were silent. He sighed, shaking his head.

"Where would he go?" he crossed his arms.

Toothless sniffed the air, turning his head from one direction to the other. After a moment, he gave a roar, and moved over, nudging Hiccup with his nose. Hiccup turned, climbing up on his back once more. He was barely on before Toothless took off through the trees. He was making his way towards the beach. Hiccup wondered where he was taking him to. As they broke the treeline, it became clear. Hookfang was standing near the edge of the water, as Snotlout packed up his bag. Well, seemed his hunch had been right. Hiccup hopped down from Toothless, walking over. Once Snotlout caught sight of him, he sighed, rolling his eyes.

"What do you want?" he snapped.

"To know what you plan on doing" Hiccup says, "you were just planning on rushing off after saying I was a fool for wanting to do the same?"

Snotlout stopped, and turned towards him "what does it matter, so you wont be the big hero for once, so what."

Hiccup groaned a bit, "is that what this is about? I'm no hero...your always saying I'm weak, clumsy, an more...I've herd that all my life, and still I'm just...me."

"Yeah well, I'm gonna be me, and I am a winner and a viking, so stay out of my way" Snotlout hopped up on Hookfang.

Hiccup moved in front of the large dragon, spreading his arms to block his way, though he knew the dragon could easily get past him if he really wanted to.

"What do you plan on doing once you get there? Your going to need

help, and I'm sure your dad would be a bit angry having his son have to rescue him" Hiccup said.

Snotlout leaned forward in his saddle a bit, "Jorgensons don't need to be rescued...but there is no harm in a little...backup."

Hiccup felt he had little chance of getting through to the other, "then at least let me come with you."

"I don't need you tagging along, I can handle myself" Snotlout glared.

"Yes, but you are the one who just said there was nothing wrong with a little backup" Hiccup smiled.

For once, so did Snotlout. For a moment it was silent, before he shrugged.

"Fine, just don't hold me back" he says.

"Great!" said another voice.

Both look to see the others and their dragons come down the beach. It had been Astrid who spoke.

"When do we leave" she smiled, crossing her arms.

"We?" Hiccup said, raising an eyebrow.

"We will just follow you anyways, so no point in saying no" she shrugged.

"Yeah, cause we're the backup's backup" Tuffnut laughed.

Hiccup looked at him, and he froze.

"What...wasn't like we were eavesdropping" he says.

Hiccup smiles, "I wasn't thinking that...until now."

"Oh...oopse" Tuffnut smiled.

They laughed, and it felt good, Hiccup needed that, and he was sure the others did as well, but there was still a major part of the big picture missing.

"We still don't know what their plan is...if we go flying in there with no idea...we may be walking right into a trap" Hiccup sighed.

They thought for a moment, then Snotlout grabbed Hookfang's reigns.

"We may not know, but we know someone who does" he pulls, Hookfang taking off.

The other's quickly got on their dragons and followed. It was soon clear where they were going. There was an old cranky viking who needed to be paid a visit.

9. Something I've Always Wanted To Do

It was safe to say that Mildew was not expecting the riders, for as soon as he saw the approaching dragons, he turned to hurry inside. Snotlout was not keen on letting that happen though. He pulled on Hookfang's reigns, and the large dragon dove down. Hiccup and the others watched, as the dragon grabbed the old viking in its' claws, lifting him high up into the air.

"Snotlout" Hiccup spoke, keeping on guard to make sure the other did not do anything stupid.

Snotlout did not even acknowledge him, as he looked down at Mildew cowering a bit in the dragon's claws.

"First and only chance old man, tell me what you and Alvin are up to" he snarled.

"I have no idea what yer talking about" Mildew snapped.

Snotlout shrugged, "to bad, Hookfang.."

The large dragon let the old viking slip from his claws a bit, Hiccup's hands tightened on Toothless' saddle.

"Gah!" Mildew grabbed ahold of Hookfang's legs.

The dragon tightened its' grip, and Snotlout smirked.

"You have one minute to spill, or you will be a splat on the ground"

Mildew looked over at Hiccup, "you can't honestly let him do this."

Hiccup looked over at Snotlout. It was a long shot, but he had to trust the other knew at least partly what he was doing. Hiccup leaned back a bit casually in the saddle, and pretended to examine his nails a bit.

"I don't know...Snotlout never really listens to me anyways, and I'd hate to be the one on his bad side holding back information" he said casually.

Snotlout smiled a bit more, and the older viking looked between the two. The others seemed to catch on a bit.

"Oh yeah" Astrid spoke, "it's not like Hiccup or any of us are his keeper."

"Plus no one likes you anyways" Tuffnut laughed.

"Could always say it was an accident" Snotlout said, "You just...slipped."

Mildew swallowed, and looked at them all. He glared, even though he probably knew Hiccup and the others really wouldn't let Snotlout do that, he was not ready to stake his life on it.

"Agh! Fine! Just put me down!" he yelled.

Hiccup smiled, and slowly they landed. Mildew seemed very happy to be back on solid ground, but as he leaned on his staff, he glared at them all. His eyes coldly went to Hiccup.

"Your father will be hearing about this...if he survives that is" he gave a slight toothy yellow smile.

"What do you mean" Hiccup asked, stepping a bit closer.

Snotlout grabbed onto the front of Mildew's clothes.

"Spill it old man" he glared.

Mildew laughed, "Isn't it obvious, the meeting was a trap, and dear old daddy fell for it."

Hiccup glared, "What is Alvin planning?"

Mildew only smiled, and Snotlout shook him a bit, but he would say nothing more.

"We have to go...now" Hiccup turned.

The others slowly began following him, and Mildew laughed once more.

"You wont make it, and besides, who's gonna believe you all after this. You have no proof at all" he cackled.

Hiccup paused, clenching his hands and closing his eyes. The anger, the worry, the fear inside of him all bubbling up. Mildew's laughter was the last straw. He turned, walking forward.

"They may not believe us, but they wont really believe you either...and there is something I have always wanted to do" he said.

Mildew's laughter paused for a moment as Hiccup spoke.

"Wat do you-"

He didn't get to finish, as Hiccup clenched his fist, and pulled it back. Hitting Mildew was like hitting a wall in many ways. The force knocking the older viking back and onto the ground, while sending a ripple effect up Hiccup's arm. For a moment, the all just stood there in silence, Mildew did not get up, out cold. Hiccup glared a bit, before coming to his senses. He hissed a bit in pain, and shook his hand a bit.

"Ow...ok...not my best idea" he said.

The others moved forward, Snotlout and the twins laughing.

"Whoa..." Ruffnut nudged Mildew with her toe.

"I can't believe you just did that" Astrid said.

"Niether can I" Hiccup said, lightly rubbing his knuckles.

He looked down at the viking, it had been very unlike him, but the other had deserved it in far more ways than one.

Snotlout laughed, "there may be hope for you yet."

Hiccup gave a small smile, that was one of the first complements the other had ever given him.

"Uh...will he be ok?" Fishlegs asked.

Astrid kneeled by the older viking for a moment, looking him over.

"Mildew is sadly tougher then he looks...He will be fine, just out for a bit" she smiled a bit.

Hiccup was glad to hear that, though they could not wait around any more. If Alvin had a plan, he had almost three full days head start, and with the time it would take them to get out there, maybe more. He turned away, moving back to Toothless.

"We have to go...now.." he said.

Toothless gave a slight roar, and the other nodded. They moved to their dragons, and the group took off into the sky. They made the slightest stop for supplies, before they were on their way.

"We're coming dad" Hiccup whispered as they flew away from Berk, "I just hope we're not to late.."

10. Enter Alvin The Treacherous

"I'm bored...are we there yet?" Tuffnut asked, slouched forward on the horns of his dragon head.

"Does it look like we're there?" Astrid asked.

"Uh...maybe" Tuffnut said.

Snotlout rolled his eyes, "all I see is water...rocks...and oh boy more water."

Hiccup sighed, they had flown for hours, and so far no sign of anything at all. No island, no boats, no trace of their fathers or of Alvin.

"Where could they be..." he sighs.

Fishlegs slid his hand into his bag, pulling out the book of dragons. Snotlout noticed.

"You idiot, what did you bring that for" he snapped.

Fishlegs jumped a bit, almost dropping the book, "I thought it might be useful, with the Scauldrons and the Sharkworms...plus you never know what else Alvin might have up his sleeve."

"Exactly, so you bring the book...which he wants...right under his

nose" Snotlout glared, "idiot."

Astrid sighed, "Snotlout is..partially right, is it a good idea to bring the book with us when we have no idea what we are even heading into?"

"To late to take it back now" Hiccup said, "besides, I think Fishlegs had good intentions...we may need the information inside it, but if things get bad..get the book out of there Fishlegs...promise?"

Fishlegs hesitated for a moment, then nodded.

Hiccup was worried, his father and the others were in danger, and now they were flying off blind to go and help them out. Even worse, they had said nothing about leaving, Gober would surely know they were gone by now. What if his father and the others returned while they were out here? What if that had been Mildew and Alvin's plan, with the help of that dark viking...it was an option. Lure his dad out here, making Hiccup and the others worry, and they had to figure he would attempt to find out what was going on and come rescue him...what if nothing had been wrong, but Alvin had been planning on having Hiccup and Toothless come anyways. There were so many options, and none of them were looking good at all.

"Um...guys" Ruffnut spoke up, her eyes on the water below.

They looked down to see a huge shadow move under them from in the water.

"Scauldron" Fishlegs whispered, swallowing.

"I guess that means we're heading in the right direction" Hiccup said, "stay on guard, and close...we don't want to get separated."

The farther they flew, the more giant rocks and jagged ones they ran into. It was beginning to get late in the day to, and the dragons were beginning to get tired from the constant flying without a break.

"We should land soon" Astrid said, looking over at Hiccup.

He nodded, and looked around. On the horizon, he noticed a large rocky island beginning to come into view.

"Is that it?" Tuffnut asked.

"Maybe" Hiccup answered, "one way to find out."

They flew in closer, landing to allow the dragons to rest their wings. The shore of the island was odd, it was definitely a beach, but as Hiccup kneeled, he picked up a handful of sand. It was black. He raised an eyebrow, letting the small grains fall through his fingers. The water lapping at the shore, his eyes travelled up to the inner part of the island. There was perfectly green grass, and large trees, but in the distance, large black mountains loomed.

"What is this place..." Astrid said, though not really expecting an answer.

Hiccup stood, dusting his pants off, as his eyes moved back to the water's edge. It was then that he saw it, poking out from a bunch of sharp rocks over on the side of the shore. A large wooden dragon like head.

"The ship" he hurried over.

The others followed, and sure enough, it was a viking's ship, and not just any ship, one from Berk.

"Safe to say we're in the right place" Snotlout confirmed what they had already guessed.

"Problem is...where is the crew?" Astrid crossed her arms.

Hiccup ran his hand lightly along the side of the large ship. It looked perfectly in tact, so it was probably safe to say it hadn't been attacked. Hiccup looked around, but Astrid was right, there was no sign of the crew, of Thornado or his father.

"We have to split up" Hiccup said.

"What...are you sure that's safe?" Fishlegs asked, holding the Book of Dragons closer.

"We have no choice, we need to find them, and the longer we argue, the more they slip away."

"Hiccup's right...we can do this, we've always been able to get the job done" Astrid smiled a bit.

Hiccup was thankful for her support, "ok, Fishlegs, you and the twins stay here...you will have plenty of space, and no one can sneak up on you. Keep an eye on the ship, and if anyone comes back or you're in danger, send a blast of fire into the air and get out."

Fishlegs and the twins nod.

"Astrid, you and Snotlout are with me..we need to comb the island, see if we can find anything at all. If we run into trouble, we'll do the same" Hiccup was well aware of the danger in this plan.

They mounted their dragons again, and took off into the air. The island from above gave little away. The trees were thick and close together.

"We can't see anything from up here" Snotlout said after a while, motioning a bit with his hand at the trees.

"We'll have to go on foot.." Hiccup answered reluctantly.

They landed in the trees, and it was like someone had flipped a switch. Things got darker and a bit colder.

"If this is what it looks like when the sun is up, I'd hate so see after dark" Astrid said, wrapping her arms around herself a bit.

"I agree, so lets work fast, and get out of here" Hiccup said, walking forward.

It was a bit harder for the dragons to maneuver around, the trees not leaving much room. This would not be a good place for a dragon fight. No moving room, little light, and the slightest spark could set it all on fire. Did Alvin know all this and choose this area for that reason? He doubted it, Alvin wasn't the brightest at plan making most of the time but...it was a thought. They moved along slowly, doing their best to stay quiet. Hookfang was having the most trouble, being the largest dragon. His horns kept getting caught between trees.

"Come...on.." Snotlout said through clenched teeth, his feet on the tree trunks as he pulled on the dragon's horns.

The dragon roared a bit, shaking his head.

"Shhh...Snotlout" Hiccup hissed.

"So much for the quiet approach" Astrid rolled her eyes.

"Blam him" Snotlout said, tugging more on the horns, "I can't help he has a fat head."

Astrid sighed, and moved over to help him. Hiccup shook his head, looking around a bit as the other two dragons watched a bit amused. He noticed a light a bit aways, and slowly made his way through the trees towards it. It was a clearing, but not a natural one. The broken tree trunks and toppled over trees, accompanied with the kicked up waves of dirt gave it away.

"This had to have been Thornado" Hiccup smiled. He turned back to the trees, placing his hand to the side of his mouth, "hey guys...I think I found...something..."

His voice had gotten quieter, as he noticed a large man shaped shadow fall over him.

"Uh-oh..." he slowly turned, but saw little before a large sack was put over him.

He struggled, but could do little against the large strong arms holding him tightly.

"Let..me..go" he yelled, but his voice was muffled by the sack.

Whoever it is was running, and the journey was anything but smooth. Hiccup felt like a rag doll, being tossed around. He was tense, where was this guy taking him? Wherever it was, it had to do with Alvin, and it could not be good.

"Toothless!" he yelled, trying to at least alert his dragon, but he was unsure if the other would hear him.

After a bit, he was thrown onto the ground, which knocked the wind out of him. He felt a large knee pressing into his back, as his arms were grabbed and forced behind him.

"Ow, hey watch it" he struggled once more.

He was finally released, and pulled to his knees, the sack pulled off. His eyes closed for a moment as the light hit him again, flinching at how bright it was. Torches were lit all around, and he could see the shapes of men in a circle around him. They were laughing a bit, and as his eyes slowly adjusted, the ring parted in front of him. A large viking with brown hair and a large beard stepped forward. His yellow smile and the look in his eyes sent cold chills down Hiccup's spine. He glared, as the name slipped out of his mouth.

"Alvin"

11. Reunions and Risks

"Nice of you to join us boy" Alvin spoke with a sarcastic ring to his voice.

Hiccup felt his stomach flip, but he kept his glare, not looking away from the man for even a moment. Alvin was not the smartest, but he was very dangerous. None of the others knew he was here, he wondered if any of them had even noticed he vanished. This day just kept getting worse and worse, but for now, one thing was on his mind.

"Where's my father?"

Alvin laughed, "aye, straight to the point. Well, maybe if you play nice, I'll tell ya."

Hiccup rolled his eyes a bit, "let me guess what your version of 'nice' means...you want me to train your dragons as usual, sorry, not gonna happen."

Alvin glared, stepping forward, and grabbing Hiccup by the front of his vest and shirt. Hiccup swallowed a bit as he was lifted up off the ground effortlessly. It definitely was scary sometimes how strong vikings were. He could feel Alvin's foul breath on his face as he hissed a bit.

"Don't test me boy" he said, moving within an inch of Hiccup's personal space.

It was not one of the most pleasant things, but Hiccup was not about to let the other know he was even remotely worried.

"I am merely being honest" Hiccup shrugged a bit.

Alvin threw him back on the ground, and with his hand bound, Hiccup could do little to brace for or stop the impact. Hitting solid rock jarred him a bit. He blinked, shaking his head slightly, as he turned his focus back on Alvin. It didn't stay there long, as his eyes wandered to a familiar large viking standing off to the side. He had black hair and a large beard. It was the viking Mildew had talked to back on Berk. Well, safe to say the hunch of them all working together fully had just been confirmed, to bad there was little right now he could do about it.

"You have two options here" Alvin said, regaining Hiccup's attention. "One, you can give me what I want, and no one gets hurt...or

two...you can resist, and watch everyone ya care about die."

Hiccup's eyes narrowed once more.

"As we speak, yer friends are being rounded up" Alvin went on, sitting on a stone ledge. "And I'm sure ya know by now I 'ave yer father" he laughed.

A few of the other vikings laughed, and slowly Hiccup forced himself up to stand. He glanced around a bit, catching no sight of his father, and the exit was blocked by two large viking.

"I want to see them safe" Hiccup said.

Alvin quirked an eyebrow.

Hiccup took a step forward, "you heard me, either I see them safe, all of them, or you find yourself another dragon trainer."

Hiccup smiled a bit, he knew Alvin had little choice, there was no one else that had the full skill or talent with dragons as him. He had no intention of giving Alvin what he wanted, but at least this way it would buy him some time to think. He hoped the others would put up a fight and hopefully get away. Toothless would probably be attempting to track him by now, but he could not risk Alvin finding out anything. He also needed to make sure his father and the other vikings were ok. Alvin pondered for a moment, tapping his chin. He finally gave a wave of his hand in Hiccup's direction.

"Ya got yerself a deal boy, but don't be tryin no funny business, or things wont go so well for any of ya" he said with a slight smile.

Hiccup really did not want to know the meaning behind that smile. He felt a pair of large hands grab him from behind, and he was dragged away from Alvin who had turned to the black-haired viking. There was something more going on with that guy than Alvin or Mildew were letting on...but what. Hiccup was forced to walk along a narrow path in the rocks. He didn't protest, he needed to think and get his mind cleared. This was going to take some work to get out of. He was soon pulled by a large boulder, where three vikings stood heavily armed. With a nod from Savage, who had accompanied Hiccup and his guards, the three guarding the bolder pushed it aside. A large cave was hidden behind, and within a moment, Hiccup was shoved inside, and the bolder was replaced over the entrance.

It took Hiccup's eyes a few moments to adjust to the sudden pitch black of the cave, only a few slivers of light came in from around the blocked entrance. Hiccup sighed, kicking a rock near his foot.

"Well that could have gone better" he said.

"Hiccup?" a familiar voice cut through the cave's silence.

Hiccup squinted a bit, and looked into the darkness, "...dad?"

A large black shadowy form moved forward from within the cave. For a moment, Hiccup's breath caught and his heart skipped a beat. As the

form got closer, the distinct form of his large father came into partial view. His heart immediately rose, and he couldn't help but smile.

"Dad!" he moved forward.

Stoick moved forward as well, leaning down to wrap his arms tightly around his son in an embrace.

"Ah Hiccup...I was afraid it was you, but I am very glad to see you.." his father spoke with a slight warmer tone to his usual strong voice.

"I know, you told me to stay home but...I couldn't after all that's happened...I knew you were in danger and I-"

"Hiccup...Hiccup" his father cut him off with a smile in the dark, "it's ok son...I'm glad to see you would come to the aid of a fellow viking and your father...but right now, we have to find a way to get out of here."

Hiccup nodded, "true, but I'm not much use, especially cuffed."

He pulled against the restraints a bit, and his father turned him to inspect them a bit, though without light, it was hard to see anything. Hiccup's eyes went back to the cave, as he scanned along it.

"Do you know how far this goes?" he asked.

"It's about a good house size, but there are no other exits...I've checked a few times" Stoick sighed.

Hiccup looked back towards the entrance then paused, "wait...are you the only one in here?"

"Aye" his father responded, meaning yes.

"Where are the others then? Snotlout's dad?" a slight worry formed inside of him.

"Last I saw of them, they were being led off around the mountain, and I was forced in here"

Hiccup sighed, "he knew...he knew all along that eventually I would come." Hiccup turned to his father, "that's why he kept you close, he knew I would come to rescue you, and if caught, demand to see you safe...but he couldn't afford to keep all of you together, to dangerous."

Stoick nodded a bit, placing a large hand on the smaller viking's shoulder, "we will save them, and we will get out of here."

Hiccup forced a smile, his father was confident, and he knew he was trying to make him feel better. It was plain to see though that they had walked right into Alvin's hand. Worst part was he had expected this and did it anyways. He hadn't even been smart enough to have a plan. He shook his head, he felt a bit foolish. He knew his father wouldn't say it, but he had let his emotions cloud his judgement a bit. He would make this right. Problem was, now Alvin had him, plus a

lot of hostages. Getting out with just his team half the time was hard enough, now he had to worry about a group of headstrong muscled vikings. Hiccup smiled a bit, that wasn't always a bad thing though..if you knew how to use it.

Stoick sat on a bolder not far away, "now, how are we going to get us and them out.."

"Like this" hiccup smiled, moving to the entrance. "Hey! I want to see Alvin again...tell him I have something to discuss with him."

For a moment, no response came, "why should we? You can talk to him when he's good an ready."

Hiccup leaned against the rock wall near the entrance, "ok, but don't blame me if he gets mad at you for him missing out on something important from the dragon trainer, I'll make sure to tell him how you ignored my reaching out."

He waited, and smiled at the sound of the bolder being pushed aside. His father gave him a slight look in the growing light.

"I hope you know what you're doing" he chided.

Hiccup nodded, "trust me.."

One of the guards grabbed him, pulling him out as Stoick stood. They pointed their swords at him, to keep him at bay as the bolder was pushed back into place. Hiccup was dragged back along the path he had been a bit before, and back towards the area where Alvin and his men were. The viking gave a slight look as Hiccup was pushed before him.

"Aye...what's this?" he snarled.

"He...said he..needed to see you" the guard said.

Alvin looked over at Hiccup, "I thought ya wanted to see yer father boy."

"Oh I do, and I am glad he is safe, but there is more that we need to discuss" Hiccup smiled.

Alvin narrowed his eyes a bit, "if this is some kind of trick, yer friends will pay the price."

"Oh no, it's not a trick, merely a...buisness proposition" Hiccup shrugged.

Alvin raised an eyebrow, "go on..."

"Prisoners are a pain, especially a bunch of kids and dragons, and big burly vikings..." Hiccup said.

"Then perhaps I should just kill em" Alvin smiled.

"No...no no...that would be bad" Hiccup said quickly.

Alvin glared a bit, "why is that?"

"You kill them, I wont train dragons...you would lose your leverage, and I would have nothing to lose" Hiccup said.

Even Alvin could see the logic in this, "then what did ya have in mind eh?"

"Let them go...all of them...you can keep me and my father, but let the vikings and my friends with their dragons go" Hiccup explained.

Alvin laughed, "what do ya take me for boy? As soon as I let em go, they'll be right back tryin to rescue ya."

"What if I can give you their word and mine they wond come back to save me or my father" Hiccup countered.

Alvin went silent. Hiccup swallowed, this was a risky move, but it would at least mean the others were safe. If it was just him and his father, the two could work together and would have a better time of slipping out then a large group. Alvin took a moment to ponder all this, before rising from his seat. He stepped down from the slight ledge, and walked right up to Hiccup, who stood his ground. He almost felt like looking away or throwing up, as Alvin's breath hit him when he leaned in to his face and gave a large, toothy, smile.

"Ya got yerself a deal dragon trainer" Alvin laughed.

12. The Begining Of The Uncertain

Hiccup was happy with the news, but the one part he was not looking forward to was facing the others. Alvin had taken the bait, though this was only the beginning, he still had to actually get the others to leave. On top of that, he would still need to find a way to get himself, his father and most likely Toothless out. He doubted the other would let his dragon go with them and at the same time, he doubted he would keep him to close at hand. There had already been far to many times where Hiccup had slipped away from him by flying off on Toothless. No, he had a feeling Alvin would keep the NightFury close enough to keep an eye on, but out of the dragon rider's reach. That was, if they had even managed to get ahold of the dragon in the first place. Toothless was still one hell of a fighter, even without Hiccup to help him fly. He eyed the cliffs as they were walking down to the beach.

Hiccup had told the others to wait down there, they would be better able to protect themselves then in the forest. He sighed, placing a hand to his head for a moment. This had all been a foolish trap, that they had all gotten stuck in. First his father, now him. Maybe stupidity ran in the family. The slight joke earned a very small smile from the teen, he needed it with the weight and pressure that was setting in on his heart. He could barely keep the nerves and the thoughts at bay. His mind wanted to speed off, already trying to pull up worst case scenarios and what could go wrong. He clenched his hands, no, he would not back down and he would not be afraid. They had been in worse situations than this, every time they managed to get out. He had to trust in himself, his friends and the dragons.

To bad thinking all of this didn't make the feelings go away much. As

they neared the shore, it was clear that some sort of battle had taken place on the dark shores. Hiccup noticed snapped trees, gouged out trails in the rocks, some of which were still smouldering. He was nudged forward a bit, in a silent gesture of 'get on with it already'. If anything, vikings were not ones for patients. He took a deep breath, and stepped forward.

Cupping his hands a bit to his mouth he called, "Astrid? ... Snotlout? ... Fishlegs? ... Ruffnut, Tuffnut? ... Toothless?"

His calls echoed a bit and he sighed. For a moment, it felt like this was going to be a lot harder than he thought. Slowly however, an answer came.

"Hiccup?!"

The voice was clearly female and one that he recognized well.

"Astrid!" he smiled, moving forward, as from behind a large rock down the beach, a blond head rose.

Astrid smiled as she saw the other, abandoning her place, and running over to him. Slowly the others surfaced, looking out to see what was going on.

Astrid slowed down a bit, as she looked past him. Noticing the other non friendly vikings, her look began to take a more serious turn.

"Hiccup...what are they doing here?" the emphasis she put on 'they', was clearly distasteful.

He sighed a bit, waiting until the others had come over. This was the part he had not been looking forward to, but slowly he explained. Astrid's look darkened, then turned slightly to disbelief. Snotlout only seemed to look angrier, and the twins more clueless. Fishlegs was shaking a bit, looking like he might wet himself under all the stress and pressure.

"No way...Absolutely no way!" Astrid said, her voice building with each word as she crossed her arms.

"You really think we're just gonna hop on our dragons, and be on our merry little way?" Snotlout asked sarcastically, as he got a bit closer to Hiccup.

Hiccup sighed, "you don't understand. I need you guys to get the vikings home safely...you have to."

"We don't have to do anything" Snotlout challenged, "you're not the boss of me or us. I came here to get my father and to kick some tail, not to turn and run home with my tail between my legs like a coward!"

"Don't you get it!" Hiccup shouted.

The others looked at him in a bit of a shocked silence. Hiccup was not one usually to burst like that unless things really got on his nerves or were serious.

He sighed, lowering his voice and calming a bit, "Your dad will be among those released...you have to make sure he and the others get back to Berk safely."

"And what about you?" Astrid asked, still keeping her seriousness. It was like she already predicted the answer.

Hiccup gave a slight laugh to mask the nerves, rubbing the back of his neck.

"My father and I have some business to take care of here" he said, "but we will come back...I promise."

It seemed only Astrid was catching on to what was happening, Snotlout continued to look pissed, while the twins stood there looking at each other as if they wondered if the other even knew what was going on. Fishlegs looked between all in the group, and slowly piped up.

"We...we're really no good here are we?...If we...stay we will...be in the way or leverage right?" he took a breath to try to calm himself, "I say...we do this..."

"I dunknow what's going on, but if it means getting the heck out of here, I'm all for it" Tuffnut smiled.

Ruffnut elbowed her brother, "this is serious you dolt...right?" She looked to Astrid.

Astrid sighed, rolling her eyes a bit, before blowing her bangs out-of-the-way. "Fine...we'll go...but if you're not back in a few days, we are coming to get you" she was serious to.

Snotlout glared a bit, "tch" he turned away from them.

Hiccup shook his head, that could have gone better, but they had gotten the jist of it. The Outcast vikings who had been watching walk over, one grabbing ahold of Hiccup. His friends tensed, though they kept still for now. Hiccup looked at them each for a few seconds, taking a breath.

"Wait here, the vikings will be released" he says.

They nodded, and Hiccup was pulled away back towards the place where Alvin had set up his camp. One by one, he watched the vikings be released, directed towards the beach. He caught a glimpse of Snoutlout's father before he went, the other looking just as mad as his son. Hiccup sighed, hoping things would get a bit easier once the vikings were safe.

"What's the matter boy?" Alvin laughed, coming up to his side, "not 'appy with yer choice?"

"I am happy that they wont be your tools anymore" Hiccup said defiantly, shooting a slight glare in the outcast leader's direction.

He laughed once more, before pointing out in the distance to the ship, "ya can watch them sail from here, but as soon as they break

the horizon, we're getting started."

Hiccup watched Alvin turn away and leave him in the company of his guards. With a sigh, he returned to looking at the water. He stayed there until he noticed five objects lift into the air, and one take out to sea. The others were going, the ship as well. He smiled, good, they were safe. He was glad to see that, but something kept nagging at his mind.

"Five dragons...one ship" he crosses his arms, "where's Thornado and Toothless..."

He doubted Alvin would give him an honest answer if he asked him, so for now it would be a mystery and a piece of the puzzle Hiccup would have to treat delicately. He watched the ship and the dragons head for the horizon, becoming smaller and smaller against the sky. Taking a breath, he watched as the last remnants of them vanished beyond the horizon, taking a moment to try to compose himself. The moment didn't last long however, as a large hand roughly grabbed his shoulder and turned him. It was the black-haired viking.

"Time's up boy" he growled, pulling Hiccup away from the edge.

"Such nice company" Hiccup said sarcastically as he was pulled along.

The other said nothing though, as he took him to a large set of black mountains. Pulling him around the side, he noticed it made an arena like circle shape. Alvin and his men stood up on higher parts of the rock. Smiling down at him, Alvin spoke to a viking on his right. This was going to be a long day.

"Ya better be ready Dragon Conqueror, because we're about to get started" Alvin called out, before his laughter filled the ring.

13. The First Trial

The sun filtered through the clouds above, the sounds of the outcasts laughs and jeers echoed through the canyon ring. Hiccup glanced around above him for a moment, before a roar echoed from where he had just been pushed in. Turning, he took a few steps back from where he had been standing. A list of potential dragons began to run through his head, what could Alvin get his hands on out here? Part of Hiccup did not want to find out. He took a deep breath, he refused to give up, especially to Alvin. The gates opened once more, a large shadow fell over the ground. Alvin laughed from above, looking down on the viking boy.

After a few moments, a large green dragon moved into the arena. Scauldron, it did not look happy at all. The large pouch under its head was weighed down heavily with water. Oh boy, this was going to be interesting. Hiccup had only really had experience with Scauldrons through the problem with the dragon flowers a while back, besides the past run in with Alvin as well. They were dangerous, able to hold in a lot of water, heating it to levels that would do a lot of damage. It swung its massive head, roaring at the onlookers from above. Its massive legs shaking the ground a bit as it moved farther into the ring.

It did not have much of a choice, two outcasts standing behind it were poking and prodding it with spears. Turning its head, it snapped out at the two, causing one to jump back. Swinging its tail, it slammed the other up against the wall. Hiccup's mind began to run through the known information. The gates closed, causing the Scauldron to roar once more, before turning its eyes on the viking within the ring with it.

"Oh boy"

Hiccup moved to the side, as the dragon tilted its head back for a moment, before letting loose a stream of steaming boiling water where he had been standing moments before. Hiccup rolled behind a large boulder, ducking with his arms over his head, as the dragon turned the stream on him once more. The water spewed around the bolder, missing him at times by a few inches. Growling, it paused for a moment, slowly moving towards the now soaked and steaming bolder. Hiccup glanced up as the shadow fell over him, before a large clawed foot wrapped itself onto the top of the rock. The vikings above laughing and watching, they were enjoying this a bit too much. Hiccup moved out from behind the bolder as the dragon leaned down and snapped its massive jaws at him.

Ok, think..he needed to think. Scauldrons were dangerous, but could only hold so much water right? Just like dragons who had limited shots, eventually the Scauldron would empty the massive pouch under its head. Even now after that attack, the large sack was smaller. Now the hard part would be avoiding it long enough for the dragon to empty its supply.

"Whats the matter eh? Cant 'andle it?" Alvin called with a laugh.

"Why don't you come down here then if it's so easy?" Hiccup countered, gaining a scowl from the viking above.

The Scauldron did not seem to enjoy the banter, swinging its massive tail in Hiccup's direction. The viking teen ducked, allowing the tail to soar over him a few inches from his head. The dragon seemed more hostile than normal. Then again, being captured and forced to fight for the amusement for vikings like Alvin would make anyone mad, it was sure beginning to have that effect on Hiccup. The dragon let loose another stream of water and for once Hiccup was glad to be small and lighter. He moved out-of-the-way once more, using the dragon's size against it. Sliding under its front legs and out the other side, the dragon almost lost its balance as its massive head attempted to follow, while it tried to turn at the same time. It roared, even angrier now that the viking kept getting away.

Something caught Hiccup's eye. The look of the dragon's body. Usually Scauldrons, much like Sharkworms had to keep their bodies moist. They did not stray to far from water for this reason. This one however looked dried out, its skin beginning to crack and peel away at some parts. The dragon was dehydrated, most likely on purpose. Alvin would never make this easy for Hiccup and using the dragons for his own gain did not phase him one bit. Even if it ment harming or killing them in the process. The dragon's breathing was labored, the lack of water and its hostile actions were taking a toll on an already

exhausted form. Hiccup needed to think of something and fast, as the large dragon moved closer. Looking around, he stepped back away as the dragon growled and advanced.

His eyes caught sight of the overhang of the ring above. It had a sort of curve to it, giving the whole arena more of a bowl like look. That was perfect, now to think of a way to get the plan that was forming into his head into action. He took a breath, looking up at the large dragon, waving his arms a bit.

"Hey, is that the best you got? Give me your best shot" he yelled.

The dragon roared, pulling its head back once more.

"Oh boy" Hiccup looked around his feet quickly, really wishing he had thought this through a bit better.

The dragon lurched forward, letting loose a large and powerful blast of steaming water. Hiccup dove to the side, covering his head a bit as mist from the attack began to form around him making it harder to breathe. His hand landed on a large rock, which turning to the side, he threw at the Scauldron's head. It hit the dragon's jaw, forcing the head to turn upwards as the dragon gave a slight roar of pain. The water hit the rock wall above, carving a slight hole in it from the pressure and the heat. Bouncing off, it began to fall like rain back onto the arena below, cooling down a bit as it fell onto the dragon below. Hiccup managed to roll out-of-the-way a bit, avoiding most of the hot water as it fell down. Although the dragon did not seem to happy about the heat, the rush of water was met with a slightly more pleasant sound as the last of the water was released from its pouch.

It shook its head, lowering it as the water darkened the floor of the arena, as well as covered a large portion of the dragon now. Hiccup slowly stood, holding up his hands as he took a few steps towards the dragon now. It turned to look at him, narrowing its eyes and growling at him. Scauldrons were dangerous on many levels, but that did not mean Hiccup was going to back down now.

"Easy boy...I'm not going to hurt you" he slowly began moving in an arch, moving around towards the dragon's side.

It watched his every move, lowering its head, allowing its long neck to stretch so it moved where he did. He reached close enough to the side, to reach out lightly with a hand, while keeping his eyes on the dragon. The vikings above leaned forward a bit, watching him. He lightly placed a hand on the heated and lightly steaming side of the dragon. It roared for a moment, snapping out at him. He stepped back, holding up his hands once more.

"Easy...it's alright.." he stayed where he was for a moment, before moving to replace his hand on its side.

The dragon growled, but made no move, watching him with a look that still harbored a lot of aggression. He moved his hand over its side, lightly working a bit of the water into the dragon's damaged skin. Slowly it began to give a sound that was similar to a purr, its sides vibrating with the noise. It seemed to like the feeling, its eyes slowly half closing. Hiccup smiled, the dragon was not so bad after

all. Moving its massive head forward, it nudged into his chest. He lightly patted the top of its head. Alvin scowled, slamming a hand down on the railing where he stood. The dragon lifted its head, growling up at him as Hiccup turned to look.

"Not happy?" Hiccup asked, crossing his arms. "Isn't this what you wanted, or were you hoping I'd get eaten?" he smiled a bit.

Alvin's look darkened at the young viking's sarcastic quip towards him.

"Don't get smart with me boy, or daddy will pay the price" he smiled darkly.

Out of the crowd of outcasts, Stoick was pushed forward, shouldering off a guard as he looked down into the ring below.

"Son" he called.

"Dad" Hiccup glared at Alvin, "Leave him alone."

"Oh I will" Alvin said, pretending to be cleaning one of his nails, "as long as you live up to your end boy."

The Scauldron roared, attempting to spit out more water, but barely got out a few little spurts. Alvin laughed, causing the dragon to growl. It was still too dehydrated, though definitely holding a grudge. The gates opened, the guards returning to drive out the large dragon. Hiccup wanted to stop them, but a guard grabbed his arm, holding him back for the moment. The dragon gave him a lightly saddened look, before snapping at the men who drove it back.

"Aw don't worry" Alvin called, "plenty more were that came from."

His men laughed, gaining a glare from the viking teen.

"I swear, if he gets hurt..." Stoick challenged through clenched teeth.

"You'll what?" Alvin moved closer to the Berk leader, smiling a toothy grin.

"It will be the last mistake you ever make" the sound in Stoick's voice as he looked into the Outcast leader's eyes was deadly serious.

Alvin gave a wave of his hand, the guards forcing Stoick back a bit, "it should be that boy of yours your thinkin about, not me eh?"

He laughed, moving back to the edge of the ring as the guard let go of Hiccup's arm.

"Ready for round two?" Alvin called.

"Do I have a choice?" Hiccup asked more sarcastically than serious.

Alvin laughed, as the gates began to open up once again.

14. Break Out

The boulder that had blocked the entrance of the cave before slid back into place. The moon above blocked out by it now, leaving Hiccup in the darkness and alone. The ache in his muscles was now becoming more apparent that he was on his own. His body sank to the floor, with a deep breath. The dragons he had been forced to face for Alvin's amusement were probably back in their cells by now. A sigh escaped him, as he pressed his hands to the cold stone floor by him.

It felt good against his heated skin, he wanted nothing more than to lay back and let sleep take him, but with the situation, that was something he could not do. He forced himself up, glancing at the boulder blocking the entrance once more, before moving back in the cave. He had to see if there was a way out once more. It would give him something active to do to stay awake, as his mind processed all this. Come on, he was smarter than this, smarter than Alvin. The wall was the same as it had been, and he slammed a fist down on it. The sharp contact sending a wave of feeling up his arm and he hissed lightly in pain.

"Great" he sighed, "now what?"

His voice echoed a bit in the open and silent cave. He shook his head, moving to go towards the front of the cave, his hair blowing into his eyes. Annoyed, he pushed it away and moved to continue, before pausing. Wait, his hair just blew into his eyes. He glanced up, moving back to where he had been moments before. Reaching a hand up, he felt it again, a slight breeze every once in a while was being pushed into the cave. That had to mean there was an opening somewhere above, even if just a small one. That was great, but from down here, useless. There had to be a way up there right? He moved to the wall, running his hands over it once more. Great, where was Astrid or the twins when n you needed them, they were great at climbing.

"Oh that's right, you sent them away for their own protection" he mocked himself, kicking himself mentally, even if he knew given the chance, he would have done the same again.

His father would have been against this if he could see him now, but there was little choice. Hiccup placed his metal leg on the wall. Finding a small nook that would hold. Thank goodness for being small and light now right? He pushed up off from the ground and began to attempt to go up. Not easy or safe in the dark.

"At least if I fall, I won't see the ground coming" a dry joke, but in the silence, hearing his own voice helped.

He had to focus on climbing, pushing the protesting of his body from his mind, or he would fall. He had no way of knowing how tall or steep the wall would get in the darkness, but he refused to give up so easily. A low rumble echoed down below. Glancing down, the boulder was moving.

"Oh you have got to be kidding, now?"

As the light flooded in, he realized actually how high he was. His hands tightened on the rock as he nearly slipped. Riding a dragon he

could handle, he felt safe, climbing a rock wall with no way of saving himself if he fell...not so much. Two guards entered, glancing around. Hiccup's heart raced. If they did not see him, they would think he escaped and his father would be in danger. If they did see him, especially up here, he would be caught attempting to escape and his father would potentially be used to punish him...plus he might never get this opportunity again. What would his father do in this situation? There was little time to make a choice, as the guards looked around the seemingly empty cave, before rushing out to tell Alvin.

A small smile formed on Hiccup's face, they had left the entrance open and now unguarded. He had to act fast though, get down and out before Alvin came to see for himself. He would probably not be as foolish as the guards. He began his slow decent, focusing on his feet a bit. Voices made him glance towards the entrance. Unfortunately doing so caused his metal foot to slip. He fell the last bit of the way, landing hard on his already sore back. Alvin and his guards were coming back, he had little time to linger on it, forcing himself up and over to the boulder that had blocked the entrance. Seconds later, four shadows were casted inside, soon followed by the two guards, Alvin, and the dark haired Viking. Hiccup tensed, watching them.

He felt like any moment, the dark Viking would turn and see him. That guy gave him a bad feeling. Alvin was yelling at the guards, so Hiccup took the chance to inch towards the entrance. He focused on trying not to make a sound, moving around the large mass of rock. He glanced back, tensing a bit at the sight of his own shadow. It was getting bigger and closer to the others. Taking a breath, he had to chance it. He turned, bolting out and immediately towards anywhere to hide for the moment. As soon as he reached a large stone, dropping down behind it, he heard Alvin's furious voice echo in the air.

"Rrrrrggahhhh, find him!" the outcast leader's voice bellowed.

Hiccup did not dare chance a glance out, his heart racing. He closed his eyes, his mind racing from the danger, to his father, to Toothless. To say he was not afraid would be a major lie, but bravery was doing what had to be done despite that fear, following your heart, and Hiccup was good at that. He glanced out from behind his hiding spot, "alright Alvin, my turn." With that, he ran off into the night and the dark trees. The silence of the night was making his footfalls echo a bit. He could hear the sounds of Alvin's men around him, though he remained careful to avoid them. All of them were out looking for him. He needed to find where his father and Toothless were being held. He circled in towards the camp Alvin and his men had made, keeping to the shadows. He glanced out from the trees, to see the outcast leader directing the others.

Conveniently, Stoick was brought out for Alvin to yell at, at least reassuring the young Viking that his father was alright. He kept silent as his father was forced off, following them to a tent not far from Alvin's. Guards stood outside of it, as well as inside of it he was sure. There was no way Hiccup could physically overpower them on his own. He had to think of something. A twig snapped behind him and Hiccup jumped, turning to face the sound. A pair of large green eyes stared at him from the trees, eyes he would know anywhere.

"Toothless!" He gave an excited whisper, moving to the dragon as it moved forward.

He could hear the happy growl rise within the dragon through the hug, tugging him into the dark trees away from the camp.

"You're ok, I'm so glad" he hugged the dragon once more.

Toothless had been keeping his distance, looking for Hiccup. The young Viking was glad his friend had managed to stay under the outcast's radar. Glancing back towards the camp, he now had a fighting chance. One thing would make it better though. He turned to the Nightfury.

"Toothless, find Thornado" he commanded.

The dragon turned, bounding off with his rider in suit. If anyone could find his father's dragon, it was another dragon. With both Toothless and Thornado, he would easily be able to rescue his father, and get them both out of here safely. Toothless took him to a cliff, the black rocks he had become used to here as well. Roars and bellows echoed around them, Thornado was definitely here. Looking out from behind a rock wall, quite a few outcasts were attempting to keep the large dragon in control as it thrashed about, tied down.

"You know what to do buddy" Hiccup said, watching his dragon take off into the sky.

He opened his mouth, letting loose a blast of fire near the outcasts, who immediately took notice and to arms in an attempt to capture the dragon. Hiccup took the cover to move to Thornado, who looked at him as his breath came in pants.

"Easy, it's ok...I'll get you out of here, my father needs you, then we can go home" he began undoing the ropes.

Unfortunately, a guard noticed, alerting the others, who turned towards him. He managed to get one rope done, and Thornado turned in the way as a guard rushed Hiccup. Opening his large mouth, Hiccup covered his ears at the bellowing waves of sound that followed, sending the guards flying back. The power so great, one could literally see the waves of sound moving through the air.

Hiccup smiled, patting the dragon's side, "good work, now let's get you out of here, and save my father."

15. Escape From The Dark Island

Thornado kept to the sky by Hiccup and Toothless. He seemed to be happy to be free of the ropes and the guards who had been watching over him. Toothless looked down at the ground below, even from up here, the fires of the outcast's camp was visible. They were circling from above, from this high up, Toothless' dark coloring and speed were a good cover. Thornado was a bit harder to cover with his coloring, though they did not seem to be too focused on them at the moment. That was good at least. Taking a breath, he focused on the tent where he had seen his father.

"We need a distraction" he said after a moment.

Glancing over to Tornado, the dragon took off into a dive towards the ground. Opening his mouth wide, he sent a roar of sound waves towards one of the tents. It was blown off easily into the distance, Alvin's men instantly put on alert and going after the freed dragon. Hiccup and Toothless took the opportunity to pull towards the sidelines, landing within the trees near the tent. He slipped passed the gap between the tree line and the tent. Toothless followed, pushing up the side of the tent with his nose. Slipping inside, the young Viking noticed the form of his father within the corner tied to the post there.

"Dad!" he hurried over, attempting to undo the ropes with his own hands.

"Hiccup" the larger Viking looked down on his son, "but how?"

"I'll explain later, right now we have to go" the ropes were large and thick, but he refused to give up pulling at them.

The opening to the tent was pulled aside, a guard entering into the tent. Toothless growled, causing Hiccup to look up as the guard began to charge. He swung a large ax and Hiccup ducked, his arms slightly going over his head in defense. It would not have really helped, though it was more of a reflex.

"Hiccup!" his father pulled against the ropes violently to get free for his son.

Toothless dove forward, slamming his front feet into the guard, sending him back. With a growl, he pounced, pinning him to the floor. With a bit of raw effort, the ropes finally gave way, Stoick moving to his son.

"Are you alright son?" he asked.

Hiccup nodded slightly, looking over at Toothless, who glanced his way.

Stoick headed for the entrance, "take your dragon, and go back to Berk."

His voice was so stern and cold, for a moment Hiccup's voice refused to muster a reply.

"I am not leaving you" he took a step forward.

His father rounded on him, "this is not a game Hiccup, you and your dragon will go home...now."

His eyes were hard and angry from all that Alvin had caused. The thought of parting with his father, especially like this was tearing Hiccup apart. The larger Viking took a breath, slowly moving to his son, his eyes softening a bit.

"I will be right behind you son" a smile on his face.

He nodded, he trusted his father. The other was not going to let this end so easily. Besides, Thornado would take care of him and he could take care of himself.

"Toothless" Hiccup turned, the nightfury bounding over to him.

They would circle over head to make sure his father got off the island, which would not change, he was not going to leave his father completely. The two made it out into the night air once more, shooting off into the air. He glanced back, in time to see his father rush out the front. He managed to knock a guard who noticed him out of his way. Thornado quickly noticed and swooped towards him. He takes a breath, things were going to be alright. Toothless gave a roar, suddenly swooping out of the way of a ball of fire that suddenly came their way. Hiccup's eyes moved to what was going on with them now, instead of behind them.

Some of the outcasts had noticed them, lighting balls of cloth and foliage on catapults to fling at them, in an attempt to knock them out of the sky. Taking tight hold of Toothless' saddle, he directed the dragon up. The two weaved, dodging the massive projectiles that were heading for them. He wanted to look back, to make sure his father really was right behind them, but at the moment, that would only put the two of them in even more danger. Toothless opened his mouth, letting loose a bolt of fire at a flamed ball that was right in front of them. It exploded and through the smoke and flame remains, they easily moved. He smiled a bit, patting the side of the dragon's head, the outcasts should know by now, they were no match for the two of them.

They passed the outcasts below, moving closer to the beach. He finally glanced back, scanning the night sky for any signs of his father and Thornado. For a moment there was nothing, and another knot began to form in his throat. It took a moment though, to notice the form moving high against the dark night sky. Squinting a bit to get a good look, a smile formed on his face at the sound of a bellow like roar echoing across the night, and the large form of Berk's chief waving slightly in his direction.

"Yes!" the nerves and apprehension vanished, as relief washed over him.

Once they were out to sea, he slowed Toothless down, in order to allow his father to catch up. The chief smiled at him, giving a laugh as he did so.

"See son, I told you all would be fine" he said, "Alvin needs to learn not to mess with Berk, our men do not give up so easily."

Both Toothless and Thornado gave a slight roar and Stoick laughed once more.

"Nor does its dragons" he added.

"I'm just glad it's over" Hiccup let out a deep breath, glancing back at the island in the distance.

Something was still nagging at him though, but was this really the time to bring it up? He had his father back, the men and his friends were safe though probably worried about them. He looked over to his father, who seemed to be thinking the same thing.

"Let's go home son"

16. Homecoming

The shores of Berk were lined with its people to welcome home the four of them. As soon as they landed, Astrid rushed down the beach, to throw her arms around Hiccup. After a moment though, she pulled away and landed a hard punch to his arm.

"Don't you ever do that again" she said.

Hiccup laughed a bit, "I don't plan to."

He felt a hand on his shoulder, glancing up into the form of his father standing behind him with a smile. His eyes then turned to his people.

"We are all home safe and sound, but we are well aware of what has happened as well as the threat. I will meet with some of you, and then address the rest later" he spoke with authority, taking charge, "until then, life is to return to normal. Alvin has no power here, so we should act as such."

The people began to disperse, and the chief looked down at his son.

"Good work Hiccup. I am not happy you disobeyed me yet again, but if you had not we would be in deeper trouble. Get some rest son" he walked up the sands, Thornado in suit.

Hiccup guessed in an odd way, that was his way of saying thank you, and it left a bit of a smile on his face. His father had never been too good with words, but that was alright. Ruffnut and Tuffnut walked up, smiling their usual goofy way.

"So, blow anything up?" Tuffnut asked laughing,

His sister elbowed him, "what he means is its good to see ya in one piece."

Tuffnut elbowed her back, "no, I really wanna know if anything got blown up!"

Astrid and Hiccup both laughed, before his eyes moved around the shore for a moment.

"Where's Fishlegs and Snotlout?" he asked, seeing an absence of the two of them.

"Snotlout is with his father, the two of them have been working on Berk's defenses and a plan against Alvin" she crossed her arms, "as for Fishlegs, he was practically passing out from worry and freaking out, so I sent him off with Meatlug to check up on Snotlout."

Hiccup nodded, that did sound like them. Fishlegs panicking and Snotlout the first to want to pick up a weapon and stab something. As the four of them and the dragons moved inland, they were sure to stop by there and assure the two of them things were alright. Snotlout refused to show it, but Hiccup knew he was relieved and happy to see them home. He kept talking about how he and his father would have

braved all the outcasts and saved the day. Fishlegs nearly cracked his spine with a hug and kept going on about how worried he had been and wanting to know what had been going on. It was Astrid who finally told them to stop, pulling Hiccup away, saying he needed to rest. It was when she said that, that he realized how bad he must have looked, and even worse, how bad he actually felt.

He had been going practically nonstop sense they left Berk. It had been nearly a day there, plus the day of the trials, then the journey home. He had not slept or relaxed in about three days. His legs felt suddenly like jelly and glancing at Toothless, he could see the exhaustion in his eyes as well. His body was sore and tired, ready to collapse as he finally played attention to it, and the high of all that had happened began to ward off. Sleep sounded so good right now, that the thoughts of eating or even cleaning up were pushed out of his mind for the time being. Astrid was speaking to him, but the words barley registered to him.

He was focused on the feeling of exhaustion, as well as the nagging feeling at the back of his mind. All of this had been too easy. He had not expected to escape and get away from Alvin right away, but still, it did feel a little quick. He shook his head, he was over thinking things right now, all of this could wait until he was in his right mind and at his best. He said goodnight to Astrid, and walked up to his room. Toothless had taken the short way of jumping through the window exhausted, already curling up on his slab. Hiccup smiled, closing his eyes as soon as he managed to flop over onto the surface of his bed. It was only moments after, which sleep took.

He did not know how long he slept, dreams and reality of what had happened began merging together from exhaustion. He woke to a familiar roar though, sitting up to stretch his arms above his head. A blanket had been placed over him, so he realized his father must have come to check on him. Slipping out of the bed, he moved to the window to look out it. Life on Berk looked normal, people going on about their normal routines, like none of it had ever happened.

"Hey, Hiccup!"

Glancing down, he noticed Astrid waving up at him. Stormfly stood by her side, shifting from side to side.

"I'll be right down" he called back.

Turning away from the window, he hurried to make himself half way presentable, before hurrying down to meet her. His muscles a bit sore, but after all they had been through and then finally getting to relax, it was normal. It was no sooner than he was out the door and heading down to her though, that he was knocked over by a large black mass, who began licking at his face.

"Toothless" he laughed, pushing at the dragon on top of him.

He refused to budge though, happy to see his rider safe and awake finally. Astrid walked over, extending her hand out to him and helping him up.

"I thought you were going to sleep forever" she teased.

"How long was I out?" Hiccup asked, rubbing the back of his neck.

"Almost a day" she said, "your dad already met with the people, and things are being taken care of. Seems like it's over."

Those words brought back the nagging feeling at the back of his mind, but they were only there for a moment, before Astrid grabbed his hand.

"Come on"

"Where are we going?" Hiccup asked confused.

"Tonight, we're all celebrating" she smiled at him, slowing her pace a tad for him.

"But we didn't really win anything" Hiccup yawned slightly, but followed.

She gave him a look, "it's not about winning, everyone is home and safe..."

He paused, looking at her before smiling, "your right, things turned out well. We should be happy and thankful."

"That's the spirit, so tonight, we celebrate!" she threw her fist in the air.

Before they knew it, the two of them were laughing together. Berk was at peace yet again.

17. Celebrations And Unanswered Questions

The night had begun to grow late, but that had no effect on the Vikings of Berk. The hall was filled with the members of the island, talking, laughing and drinking. Hiccup smiled, scanning the crowd a bit. There were certain things he liked about Berk, seeing everyone together and happy was one of them. Someone nudged him from the side and he turned his head to see Astrid standing by him with two cups. She handed one to him, glancing at the people Hiccup had been looking at moments before.

"It's nice isn't it the few times we actually get to gather as a people to celebrate or just be one" she spoke with a bit of awe and kindness at the same time.

Hiccup smiled, looking at her in the candle light of the great hall. She had a good heart, and it showed through her love of Berk and its people. For a moment he didn't even hear what she had said, until her attention turned on him, making him jump a bit as their eyes met. He covered his staring, by taking a drink from his cup and looking back at the people.

"Berk really is something" he agreed.

She smiled, he noticed it from the corner of his eye. Slipping a hand up, she brushed a bit of hair behind one of her ears. Hiccup glanced over to where Toothless and the other dragons were communing. Some of

the members of the village were feeding those fish, Toothless catching one in his mouth. He caught Hiccup watching, and tilted his head in that goofy dragon grin he had given Hiccup when the two of them had first met and smiled. He smiled back, watching the dragon swallow the fish in one gulp. He chuckled a bit, looking back to Astrid, who seemed to have been looking to the dragons as well.

"It's hard to believe we were at war with them not that long ago, I wonder what would have happened if you and Toothless had never become friendsâ€¦what if none of us had become friends?" she tightened her hands on her cup a bit as she spoke.

Hiccup took a breath, before placing a hand onto hers for a moment, "we would have found a wayâ€¦besides, and the point is we are friends that makes us stronger."

She smiled, both soon glancing down at their hands meeting. Hiccup pulled away, the two of them turning away a bit and laughing, mumbling a bit awkwardly under their breaths. An arm wrapped around Hiccup's shoulder, his head being pulled down as someone proceeded to mess up his hair. He pushed the person away, looking to see Snotlout laughing.

"Just like you to be a stick in the mud over here while a party is going on" he crossed his arms.

Fishlegs and the twins were behind him, Astrid placing a hand on her hip as she rolled her eyes at his comment.

"We were having a conversation, and it's just like you, to get in someone's way" she smirked a bit.

Snotlout moved to her side, flexing his arm a bit "oh I can do a lot more baby."

She rolled her eyes, placing a hand on his face and pushing him away as she had done before. The two of them fighting made the twins laugh, the four of them beginning to talk. Fishlegs tapped onto Hiccup's shoulder, causing him to turn and look at his friend.

"You really think this is all over?" he asked nervously.

That had been a question that Hiccup had been dreading and trying not to think about all day. At the mention of it, the others grew silent. Even in the middle of a party it seemed, things like this could change everything to serious in an instant. Hiccup sighed a bit, staring into his cup.

"Iâ€¦don't know" he said, "honestly, I can't see Alvin giving up so easily, plus, there are so many unanswered questions."

"Like?" Snotlout asked.

"Like that odd Viking? Or what Mildew had to do with all of this? How did Alvin know about that island, and what was that place?" he elaborated.

Snotlout rolled his eyes.

"Let's hope this is the end, and we don't have to find out" Astrid took a drink from her glass.

"What about that weird skeleton thingy" Tuffnut asked.

They all looked at him.

"What skeleton thingy?" Hiccup asked.

"We saw it on the island, near the shore" Ruffnut shrugged, tossing one of her braids behind her shoulder.

"It was huge!" Tuffnut spread his arms a bit to give an example.

Fishlegs swallowed, "you mean that thingâ€|that was sticking up out of the water?"

They nodded.

"What was it?" Astrid asked him, since he would probably have a better grasp than the twins.

"It looked like some kind of dragon skeleton" he said, "though I was really hoping not, and was not too keen on getting a close enough look to see."

"Why does it matter?" Snotlout huffed, "we're done there, so who cares if there is a skeleton of some dead dragon floating around?"

He rolled his eyes, turning to go off into the party once more. The twins followed, wrestling a bit and arguing about food. Fishlegs glanced between Astrid and Hiccup for a moment, before following and telling them to wait up. A dragon skeletonâ€|something about that sent a chill through Hiccup.

"Snotlout has a bit of a pointâ€|a dragon skeleton doesn't really have a meaning to us at the moment" Astrid stated after a moment.

"True" Hiccup sighed, "But if it has anything to do with Alvin and that dark Viking, it can't be good."

He headed towards the doors.

"Where are you going?" Astrid called after him.

"I need to think and check on something" he turned to look back at her with a smile, "don't worry, I'll be back in a little bit."

"You better, this is a party, we can't really have it without one of the guests of honor" she laughed.

Hiccup gave a slight wave, which she returned, before pushing open the doors and stepping out into the night.

The path back to his home was lit by the scattered torches throughout the town. At first, they had been a way to ward off and see the dragons, now, they were merely for more recreational use. Hiccup was going over all that had happened in his mind, since his father had gone away, to now. Why had Alvin specifically used that island, instead of having the meeting on Outcast Island where he would be sure to have the upper hand? Why had his father agreed, instead of fighting it and requesting if Alvin wanted to speak, to come to Berk himself?

"None of it makes sense" Hiccup sighed, kicking a stone over a bit.

This mess might have seemed like relatively nothing but a typical trial of Berk, but below the surface, a lot of the questions that arose once one thought about it were something that was getting at his mind. He made his way back up to his home at the top of the hill, pushing open the door. It was silent and dark inside without his father there or himself and Toothless. He had been used to many nights alone back in the day, now being alone like this was kind of eerie. He climbed up to his room, moving to the small desk that housed his journal. Opening it, he scanned one of the more recent pages.

He had been doing a bit of research with the book of dragons, though he made sure to keep dire information out of his journal just in case. At the moment he had been looking into dragons that were believed to be extinct, those who had vanished a long time ago or within the past. He had thought he had read something about a similar subject, and having the twins bring up the skeleton on that black island had made it click a bit. He ran a hand through his hair, turning the page to the next, staring at it.

"Perplexingâ€¦|aint it" came a voice from behind.

Hiccup jumped, turning and ducking, in time to avoid a sword coming down at his head. It caught in the desk, causing the lone candle to fall to the floor and go out.

"Who's there" Hiccup called, his voice threatening to give away the nerves that were growing inside.

The moon shown through the window, but whoever it was, was smart enough to stay out of the light at least for now. That voice had been familiar though, Hiccup's mind attempting to place it, as his body tensed a bit on guard and ready to defend himself or bolt if needed. A throaty laugh was his answer.

"I underestimated you boy, I thought Alvin would be able to handle you and that damn father of yours, seems I was wrong" the person behind the voice moved a bit to the side in the shadows, as if circling him like a wild animal would its prey.

Hiccup moved in turn, "so you have something to do with Alvin hmm? Sure that's a smart decision?"

The voice laughed, "A quick witted one, though not good enough to know you're trapped."

Hiccup glanced past the voice, sadly he was beginning to realize the

other was right. Positioned behind whoever this was, were the stairs. Behind Hiccup, was the window. Unless he could get past the other, his only exit was blocked. The other had the added bonus of the dark room and a sword. Darknessâ€¦.that voiceâ€¦ugh why was his head not working the way he wanted it to at the moment? He shook his head, trying to clear it. The other took the distraction as a chance to swing again. Hiccup heard the sword moving through the air, stepping back. He lost his footing a bit, which was a bit of what saved him, causing him to fall back to the ground. The one who stepped forward made his heart skip a beat.

It was the dark Viking from the forest and with Alvin. He placed the smooth side of his blade in his hand, pretending to inspect the blade a bit.

"I guess a pesky kid like you is what I get for getting involved with him and this mess of dragons" the Viking spoke, glancing a bit sideways at Hiccup.

"What is it exactly that you're after?" Hiccup tried another question, since the one as to who the other was was not getting him too far.

The dark Viking laughed, chipping a bit of dried blood from his sword.

"What do you think?" he asked, "dragons are a menace, but they are powerâ€¦with them stretching the boundaries of the seas, there is a need for such power."

The seas? Hiccup looked at the other, trying a bit to gauge him and what he was saying. The dark Viking smiled a bit, and pointed the end of the sword at Hiccup.

"Answer something for me now, it was you in the forest that day wasn't it...when I came to visit that old coot of a Viking?" he asked.

It was true, Hiccup had been there when the other went to see Mildew, he had overheard them and been the one to escape them. Why did it matter though? Why ask that now?

The Viking laughed, "yer one of the few who have ever managed to get away from me, though if I had really set my mind on it, you would have been in trouble boy."

Hiccup blinked a bit.

"That won't happen this time" the other's voice turned eerily serious with that one sentence.

Hiccup knew it was time to move, sitting here was not a good idea. He pushed himself to his feet, and the other moved forward to grab him with a large hand. Ducking under it and to the side, Hiccup barley managed to slip away from his grasp and towards the stairs. Until the back of his vest was grabbed that is. His feet were lifted from the ground.

"Oh boy..." he was turned so that his face was in view of the other.

The sword was lifted a bit to his throat as the other spoke, "we have some unfinished business dragon boy."

Hiccup's heart was racing, it took a lot just to swallow since his mouth had gone dry.

"Sorry, places to go and all that..." he let his arms slip through the vest, leaving him only in his usual green shirt.

The Viking gave a roar of annoyance, tossing the piece of fabric he held aside. Hiccup had moved down the stairs, jumping as many at a time as he could, without losing balance. The thunderous sound of the other behind him, was enough to make him speed up. He managed to the door, closing and leaning against it as the sharp sound of the sword making contact with the wood was in his ears.

"Great, dad is going to have a fit" he sighed, moving off down the path.

He needed to get to the hall, back to the others who were sadly all at their party.

"Idiot" Hiccup cursed himself, "I should know by now that wanting to ever be alone is like a big welcome to try and capture or kill me sign for enemies."

That did not help any, really it only served to tick him off a bit more. Was he honestly never going to be able to go for a walk or time to himself? Just plain sad. He glanced behind him and slowed a bit. There was no sign of the other who had been chasing him. Where had he gone? He had been chasing him, and Hiccup doubted he could allow him to reach the others. If this is what he wanted, Hiccup alone, it would be one of his only chances. If his father found out, Hiccup would probably be watched more than he often already was. So where had he gone? Now was not the time to think of that, Hiccup had to focus on getting out of here. He continued on his way, before a black shape moved out into the path before him.

Hiccup slid to a stop at the sight of the Viking smiling before him, stepping back a bit as the other took a step forward in his direction.

"Come on now, don't make this harder than it has to be especially on yourself and those friends of yours" he laughed.

"What do you mean?" Hiccup glared.

"Oh I dunno it would be a shame if one of them had to be the target of someone wanting dragons hmm? Or if Berk got caught in the crossfire of all of this" his smile was dark.

This guy was not like Alvin. Alvin was a killer and ruthless, but he had his limits and was more self-prone. This guy gave hiccup a lot darker feeling than he had ever gotten from the other. The Viking placed his sword in its sheath, looking at him.

"I'll make you a deal" he said.

"Why does hearing those words always mean something bad" Hiccup

sighed a bit, though he was listening.

"I want to show you something, then you can make up your mind" he smiled.

Hiccup's already bad feeling grew. He did not trust this guy at all.

"Only if I am allowed to bring Toothless" it was not much, but at least with his dragon there, he would have a fighting chance and a warning if anything happened.

The Viking glared for a moment, then nodded. This was foolish, but Hiccup had a feeling from what the other had said, if he did not at least do something, someone else was going to pay the price. He walked back to the hall, the other following though staying in the shadows. He opened the door, glancing around. Astrid and the others were across the room laughing, Snotlout flexing once more for Astrid. He noticed Toothless in the corner, giving a light whistle. The dragon's ears twitched a bit, his head turning to look at his rider. Seeing Hiccup, he gave a grin and came bounding over.

"Easy buddy" Hiccup put a hand over his head to calm him a bit and keep him down, glancing at the people, before leading him out.

The Viking moved in the shadows and Toothless caught sight. He hunched down, growling a bit as his eyes narrowed.

"Shhâ€¦it's ok boy" Hiccup reassured him.

The dragon shot him a look, before looking at the other before them. The Viking laughed.

"Alright, now let's get going" he turned away towards the cliffs.

Hiccup was tempted to sick Toothless on him while his back was turned, but he had more heart and honor than that. The two of them followed, Toothless making sure to stick to Hiccup like glue. The three of them moved through the forest and out onto the cliffs of Berk. Stopping at the edge, the Viking gave a wave of his hand.

"See for yourself what awaits Berk" he laughed.

Hiccup stepped forward, as he did, his heart sank. Coming into view from the cliff was a large fleet of ships. Those were not Outcast flags from them either. Hiccup swallowed a bit, looking to the other next to him.

"Berk is in for one hell of a ride boyâ€¦..but it's up to you in the end"

His laugh filled Hiccup's ears, as he looked out at the ships, Toothless growling beside him.

"Noâ€¦"

Toothless was not happy at all about having the ships there, though neither was Hiccup for that matter. Looking at the symbol that was on their flag, it made an odd feeling rise within the young Viking's chest. It was similar to the symbol used for Berk that could not be, they were not Berk ships and the Vikings on them were definitely no friends of Berk either. The dark Viking near Hiccup and the dragon seemed happy, which made the situation all the more dire and not good for him or his home. He turned to look at the man before him.

"Who are you, where did all these ships come from?" he asked, motioning with an arm to the waters, "there is no way these could belong to Alvin."

The Viking laughed, "yer right there boy, Alvin is nothing compared to us."

Who exactly 'us' was, he did not seem keen on spilling even now. Toothless moved his body in-between the two, growling at the other man. He was bent on protecting Hiccup, especially since so much had recently happened. Part of Hiccup was not complaining, to have a dragon defending you was pretty safe, but at the same time, he did not wish to seem or feel cowardly. Perhaps it was his Viking heritage speaking, but he could not help but to step out from behind the black dragon, causing his massive head to turn in his direction.

"It's ok buddy" he tried to reassure him, patting his head a bit.

Toothless gave a bit of a half whine, half groan, not too happy about letting his rider pass him. Hiccup settled his eyes on the other Viking, attempting to harden his gaze a bit like he had seen his father do plenty of times when speaking to an enemy. Unfortunately, attempting to look tough made him look a bit silly and at times, even less intimidating than he had started out. The Viking laughed once more, having him constantly seeming to laugh at Hiccup, was becoming worse than having that cold and killer look directed at him.

"So? What is your answer?" he asked, looking now directly into Hiccup's eyes.

Really? He did not have one. He could not tell the other to leave, or no for that matter, since it would result in devastation for Berk. At the same time, he could not say he would go with them. With no clue as to who they were, or where they were from, going with them would be a suicide mission. His friends and his father would be angry and hurt with him. Not to mention Toothless. The dragon would never let him leave without him and taking him would not be an option. What if he left him behind and never came home? Toothless would never be able to fly again, he doubted the dragon would accept or bond with anyone like the two of them had. He sighed a bit, making a decision like this on the spot and out of pure emotion was dangerous.

It was risky beyond measure, the wrong move could send more than just himself into chaos. That had never really stopped him before to be honest in a way. Certain situations Hiccup had rushed headlong into situations that would and had been considered foolish and beyond dangerous as well. But with those, he had always had his friends to bail him out in the end, he had never been alone. Now however, all of that was uncertain. He had no way of knowing now if they would come or be there for him. Not that he had known that before at the time

though either, but he had always had faith. He needed to have faith nowâ€¦wait, did that mean he had made a decision?

"Hurry up already, we don't have all night" the Viking's voice made him jump slightly, pulling him back to reality.

The other seemed annoyed, bored of waiting around for Hiccup to make up his mind. Toothless gave a bit of a growl in response to the words, shifting on his clawed feet a bit. Hiccup looked to the dragon, as he stared back into his rider's eyes. There was a fire in them, the usual wild and untamed spirit he had seen throughout their time together. Toothless was not the type to simply give up, neither were the other Vikings within Berk. They were all warriors and fighters, who when all seemed to be lost and against them would stand up and face it all countless times with courage and heart. A slight smile formed on Hiccup's face, Toothless seeming to get the idea narrowed his eyes back on the dark Viking, as Hiccup placed a hand upon his head.

"Berk has never surrendered beforeâ€¦not to dragons, not to Alvin and not to youâ€¦neither will I" he said.

He was a bit surprised at how calm and strong his voice sounded, the fire and passion within his voice reminded him of when he had met the dragons. The heart and courage to go against everyone, not back down and to befriend the dragons, saving them in the end. Toothless gave a slight yelp like roar in agreement and the dark Viking's look took a sour turn. That was not what he wanted to hear at all, that was certain. He raised a hand slightly within the darkness.

"So be it" he said, letting the hand fall.

20. Let The Flames Begin

As soon as the dark Viking's hand fell, an orange glow began to appear from the ships. It started at the first on the left corner of the first line, spreading to the second, then the third and soon over the others like a wave. Looking closer, Hiccup could see they were nothing good. Compact balls of brush and foliage, as well as other burnable materials were bound into a ball and set ablaze. They were currently set upon large catapults, which sat on the deck of each of the ships. Toothless roared, as the first one was let loose. It streamed overhead like a comet, the light reflecting on Hiccup's face, as his eyes followed it across the sky.

"Toothless!"

The dragon turned sharply, darting forward as Hiccup quickly grabbed ahold and jumped on. The second he was in and his controlling leg was in place, the nightfury was off into the air.

"You won't be able to stop em all" called the Viking after him.

He did not look back, focusing on the ball of flame heading towards the village. Toothless opened his mouth, a blue blast of flame shooting off into the sky at the ball. It hit, causing the projectile to lose momentum and its course. It exploded into pieces, falling to the ground below. Hiccup pulled on the saddle.

"We have to stop them"

Toothless narrowed his eyes, sweeping out over the water. A few more of the flaming balls were launched, Toothless swerving to avoid them. He sent his own flame at them as a counter, dropping them into the water below. Swooping in, his next attack was aimed at the catapult which was launching them. Some of the Vikings dived out of the way as the attack hit and the catapult went up in flames. Hiccup glanced back at the ship to see the men attempting to put out the flames. The two took out a few more of the catapults, before Hiccup pulled Toothless back. Looking out over the water and the mass of ships, his heart was racing.

This all seemed surreal, a dream. The front ships which had been damaged, were beginning to move in towards the shore. There was no way Hiccup and Toothless could take out all of the catapults, along with stopping the ships and the men. They needed help and the village needed to know. Risking leaving now when there were still catapults were dangerous, but letting the village go on alone with no warning as enemies snuck up on them was worse.

"We have to warn them" he said, looking down at Toothless.

Pulling on the saddle though, the Nightfury seemed to resist a bit, giving a frustrated roar.

"I know you want to stop them" Hiccup sighed, "but right now warning our friends and the village first is more important."

With an annoyed roar and firing off one more shot, the dragon turned and rocketed back towards civilization. A few of the balls of fire flew overhead, making contact with various parts of the city, one actually making contact with a house. Toothless landed, as the noise brought out the party goers.

"What in the name of Thor is going on?" Stoick asked his son, looking up to see the fire raining down from overhead.

"Dad!" Hiccup said trying to get his attention, "we're under attack-"

"Blast it!" said Spitelout walking up, "I bet it's those damn Outcasts."

Many of the villager's began to talk at once, hearing this comment. Hiccup looked from one person to another, jumping a bit as one of the ship's attacks hit a line of trees not too far away. He glanced, looking at the large blackened ball burning away. The entire village would be torched at this rate.

"Dad listen to me" he said turning back, he had to make them listen, "it's not the Outcasts."

"Then who the bloody hell is it?" Spitelout glared at him a bit, "we don't have time to sit around here jabbin as we're being bombarded."

"Enough" Stoick boomed, looking cross at Spitelout. When his gaze returned to his son, it softened only a fraction, "speak."

"There was a Viking with Alvin, he wasn't a part of the Outcasts and now he's hereâ€|their flags are like ours dad" he added a bit, the worry from before creeping up on him again.

Stoick's expression turned to one of surprise at his son's words, he immediately turned to the villager's.

"Prepare for battle, we show them no mercy. Any man or woman unable to fight, take the elderly and the children to the caves and stay there" he turned, walking off.

Hiccup had to almost run, in order to keep up with his father's strides. Toothless following by his side, his eyes darting around at the sound of the attack and the possibility of enemies.

"Hiccup go to the caves" his father said in a stern and slightly cold voice.

Hiccup narrowed his eyes a bit, the way his father was acting, "you know themâ€|don't you."

Stoick glanced at his son, pausing for a brief moment, "I want you and your friends in the cave, take your dragons and stay there. I do not want to see a single one of you in this fightâ€|do I make myself clear?"

Hiccup stood his ground a bit, "you need our help, the dragon's help-"

"What I need" his father said, "is for you and the others to be safe and protect the caves. Now go."

He refused to listen to another word, turning off to go. People ran past all over the place, the orange glow of fire getting more noticeable and widespread. Hiccup's heart felt like it was torn in many ways. This was his fault, listening to his father, disobeying his fatherâ€|he wanted to help, but he had been specifically ordered by the chief as well to go to the caves. Toothless gave a slight wine, nudging at his hand.

"I know buddyâ€|" Hiccup whispered, placing his hand on top of the dragon's head.

He turned away from the sight, climbing onto the Toothless.

"Lets go"

Toothless shot off into the air once more, now the two were heading towards the mountains and caves. He did not look back, even though it took everything he had, for fear that if he did, he would have never been able to leave.

21. Choosing A Path

Landing at the caves, Astrid was the first out to him.

"Hiccup!" she said, opening her mouth to say more.

"Not now Astrid" Hiccup brushed her off, not in the mood for this or

even to be here.

He would have rather been out helping his father and the other Vikings like he was sure his friends would, but he had been brushed off. Kind of like he was brushing off Astrid right now. With a sigh, he paused, looking back at the female Viking, who stood looking after him still where she had ran out to meet him. Toothless looked up at him from his side, giving a slight growl. He kept glancing back at the village over the trees of the forest. He knew the dragon would have rather been back there as well.

"I'm sorry" he said, turning back to her, "I don't know where my head is right now."

"I know where your heart is" she walked over, poking him in the chest to emphasize her point. "You should be there Hiccup, we all should" she sighed, "our dragons could help."

"But my father and the chief wants us here" Hiccup turned to the cave.

Fishlegs, Snotlout, Ruffnut and Tuffnut were standing at the mouth, their dragons peeking out from behind them.

"Where's Mildew?" Hiccup asked, glancing around a bit.

The older Viking was nowhere in sight.

"He was here just a minute ago" Astrid placed her hands on her hips.

"H-he refused to stay here with the dragons" Fishlegs called from the cave entrance, "he headed off into the woods."

Hiccup narrowed his eyes a bit, something did not feel right about this. He turned to the trees, with a slight call, Toothless turned to follow him.

"Where are you going now you dolt?!" Snotlout yelled, "You're going to get us all in trouble again."

"I need to find Mildew" was all Hiccup said.

He took off, Toothless on his heels.

"Can you find him buddy?"

The dragon growled, lowering his head a bit to the earth, taking in the scent. He soon lifted up his head, his eyes narrowing a bit. He had caught the scent, but by the look of it, that was not all he had picked up on. Hiccup barely had time to grab onto the saddle and swing himself up, before the dragon sped up. The trees flashed by, Hiccup staying low as branches whipped over his head. He takes a breath, patting Toothless' head a bit. Toothless paused at a rocky patch between the forest and the mountains. Hopping up on top of some of the rocks, he growled as he inched towards the edge. Hiccup continued to pet his head, shushing him a bit as he looked over the edge of the rocks.

"You idiots!" Mildew yelled below, "I gave you all the information

and opportunity you would need and you still managed to screw it up."

In the trees below, was Mildew and three tough looking Vikings. These did not look like Outcasts, so they had to be a part of this invading group. What information and opportunities had Mildew given them?

"Calm down you old coot, Striker will handle this" one of the Vikings said.

"Striker?" Hiccup whispered, looking down at Toothless.

For a moment, his eyes widened into their usual puppy dog friendly look, his head tilting at his rider's words curiously, beforeâ€|

"Ahhhhh!"

A red flash shot through the trees, all of the Vikings, Hiccup and Toothless looked at it passing. The flopping form of Snotlout stuck in the reigns of Hookfang made Hiccup sigh.

"Snotlout!" he turned Toothless, having little time to worry about or care if the Vikings or Mildew saw him.

The two took off, catching up with the run-a-way pair in moments.

"What are you doing Snotlout?" Hiccup said.

"Oh you know, it was such a nice night and invasion, I thought to myself...why not tie myself to my dragon and go for a drag along" Snotlout said sarcastically, "what does it look like!?"

Hiccup rolled his eyes, moving to go forward and cut Hookfang off. The large dragon roared, pulling up onto his back legs. Toothless roared at him in return, until lowering to the ground a bit, he backed off a bit. Toothless looked up at Hiccup triumphantly.

"Excellent" Hiccup smiled.

"Uhâ€| a little help here?" Snotlout called, dangling from the side of Hookfang.

Hiccup jumped down, moving to the other. Pulling out a small dagger, he slowly cut the reigns tangled around his foot. With a heavy thud, he fell to the ground.

"Ow" Snotlout looked up from him upside down a bit.

"What are you doing out here?" Hiccup asked as he stood up dusting himself off.

"We couldn't let you go running off and screw things up" he said.

Hiccup smiled a bit, in a way that was his way of saying they had been worried about him and had his back.

"Oh don't give me that" Snotlout said, turning to tie the reigns back together, "lets just get that old man and get out of here."

Hiccup glanced back the way they had come, "their probably long gone by now..."

"Who's they?" Snotlout asked.

Hiccup sighed, "I'll explain later, so much of this just doesn't fit."

He shook his head a bit, looking at Toothless. The dragon was shifting from foot to foot. From all of this going on, he was getting a bit worked up and raring to go with no way to help or blow it off. Hiccup glanced back towards the village.

"So what's the plan?" a female voice reached his ears.

Turning, he saw the others step through the trees on their dragons.

"Snotlout already said it, we get Mildew and go back to the caves" Hiccup said slightly sternly.

"And let the village get destroyed when we can help? Not gonna happened" she leaned forward, folding her arms of Stormfly's head with a casual smile.

Hiccup looked from one face to another of his friends. They were all giving him the same determined look, even Fishlegs and Snotlout. Toothless nudged his shoulder giving a slight roar. He agreed with them all. Even though it was dangerous and they were going against Stoick they were all in. This had to be stupid, crazy, dangerous and right up their ally. Nodding, a familiar fire and passion flared up in his eyes. He turned to Toothless, climbing back onto the saddle. Toothless crouched down, storing power in his legs, as his wings slowly began to unfurl.

"Lets save Berk" Toothless took off, shooting into the sky.

22. A Chapter's End

Berk was red and orange with the lights of a blaze. There were many people rushing about, some were on the ground not moving. Hiccup tried to avoid looking at these, but his eyes were drawn to a few at times. His father was not one for brute force and killing like this anymore, since they had begun to bond with the dragons. Now however, this battle seemed to be a bit all out and no holding back.

"Stay out of the sight of my father, attack then disappear into the night. Focus on the ships, if they don't have them, they have nowhere to go" Hiccup called back to the others.

They nodded and broke apart. Thankfully it was a cloudy night, as well as the smoke from the mess of blaze down below was giving them a lot of cover. He pulled Toothless up into the clouds, heading out to over the water. He caught glimpses of bolts of fire and the like from the others, watching as a few ships sank. Even though he had warned

the others to keep their distance, he could not help but let his eyes search slightly for his father. He was not in the main city, the Vikings fighting down below were doing what they were used to, what they were raised to do. But they did not have their leader.

"Where are you?" He whispered.

Toothless gave a slight roar, looking down below them. Hiccup looked down below at one of the ships that had made its way into the shoreline. On the deck of it was the dark haired Viking and Hiccup's father. What was he doing down there? Hiccup pulled Toothless back for another round, the two of them were fighting. The look in his father's eyes made Hiccup freeze a bit and even slightly think about pulling back. That was not an option as the dark Viking reached behind him as his back hit the mast. Smiling, he threw a heavy shield at Stoick, catching the leader off guard, since his focus had been more on blind rage. He had let his anger get the better of it and Hiccup knew it. His father stumbled back against the edge of the ship, the dark Viking smiling as he moved forward and raised his sword.

"Dad!" Toothless dove straight at the ship, opening his mouth and letting loose a bolt of fire which knocked the dark Viking back across the ship.

"Hiccup?" Stoick looked at his son, as they made a round turn and the Viking boy hopped off his dragon, "I told you to keep to the caves."

His voice turned darker and angrier as he spoke, a look to match it forming as he stood up straight. Hiccup glanced at the other Viking who laid unmoving on the ship.

"I know but if I had not been here, you'd be dead" he looked into his father's eyes, before slightly glancing away.

Stoick sighed, looking back towards the village, "I did not wish for you to witness this none of you" he spoke solemnly.

"What is going on dad, you need to tell me" he said.

"This is nothing you need to worry about son, get out of here. Hiccup look out!" he suddenly yelled.

Hiccup turned, moving out of the way just barley as in a flash of silver, a sword came down at where he had been moments before. The dark Viking glared at him maliciously, the intent in his eyes anything but good.

"I will not allow you to ruin things runt" he spoke coldly, "if you will not come willingly, then I will take you back in pieces!"

He swung his sword down once more, Toothless giving a roar as he leaped forward. He slammed into the other, the two of them being sent overboard into the cold, dark and debris filled water.

"Toothless!" Hiccup ran to the side, looking over, his eyes searching the water's surface.

Stoick moved forward, pulling his son back a bit. More Vikings were

boarding the ship, both the chief and the chief's son onboard a bit of an opportunity they could not resist. Stoick moved in front of Hiccup.

"Stay behind me son" he said.

"I need to find Toothless" Hiccup glanced at the water's surface once more.

His father ignored him a bit, "that blasted dragon can handle himself."

His voice only seemed half certain though. Hiccup glanced at his father and then to the other men who were moving forward to charge. Suddenly however, the water near the ship began to glow a deep blueish color. It pushed up a bit, causing the boat to buck and the Vikings to be knocked over a bit. A large eruption of water shot out of the ocean, spraying the ship and all who were on it. A large black entity moved up out of the water, landing heavy on the deck of the ship. A massive pair of black wings opened, flaring out as green eyes narrowed ablaze with the fierce soul within. A large mouth opened to reveal large and dangerous teeth. A roar shook the ship, echoing throughout the village itself. It was enough to make many around stop and stare.

"Toothless!" Hiccup smile, happy and relieved to see the dragon.

The Vikings seemed to feel the opposite, turning and bolting from the ship. The dragon turned, seeing Hiccup he bounded over almost knocking him over as he pounced. Stoick smiled a bit, then turned to look at the water. No one else surfaced at all. He then turned to the village after a moment.

"We end this now" he said raising his sword, "for Berk!"

Throughout the village, roars and cheers erupted to meet his call, the Vikings of Berk pushing to knock back their invaders. Hiccup looked to Stoick, who only gave a slight nod to him. Hopping on Toothless' back, the two took off. They wasted little time in helping to sink the ships that were along the shoreline as well as those out to sea. Many of the Vikings on the land were beginning to pull back and head back to them, those that were left soon getting pulled back out to sea.

"Their retreating!" Gobber called from the shore, waving his rock attachment in the air.

The Vikings of Berk cheered a bit at the sight of the others on the run. This was great, Berk had one.

"Woohoo!" Came a yell to Hiccup's side, he looked to see Astrid and Stormfly rising to meet him.

"We did it!" Snotlout pumped his fist into the air in excitement, before clearing his throat, "of course much of it is thanks to me."

He wiggled his eyebrows at Astrid, who made a yuck face and Hiccup laughed. The twins and Fishlegs fell into suit, the group of them slowly lowering to land on the shores. Stoick was staring out at the

water.

"You think he's gone?" Hiccup asked, as the others went to help put out the fires and begin clean up.

"Lets hope so son" he said, placing a hand on his son's shoulder.

* * *

><p>Three days later:<p>

Berk was doing better after the fight, the houses and buildings were beginning to be rebuilt. Bodies had been dealt with, and fire drowned land was being tended to as well. All of the riders were helping, as well as the dragons. Hiccup glanced at his father, from where he was helping Gobber.

"Don't worry, when he's ready to talk about it he will" the mentor's voice brought Hiccup back.

"I know" Hiccup sighed.

His father continued to swore he had not known the men or anything of why this had all happened. Hiccup did not believe this for a moment, but the other would not budge. Pressing him to far only succeed in landing the two in an argument they did not need at the moment. He sighed, getting back to work. Toothless walked up to his side a bit, nudging him with his nose.

"Hey Hiccup" Astrid called waving from a hill, "work's done for the day, lets get going!"

Hiccup smiled, they had agreed to go out for a fly today, to let the dragons stretch their wings and relax after everything.

"See you later" he waved back at the older Viking, before climbing up onto Toothless.

"Be careful and 'ave fun" Gobber laughed a bit waving as the small band flew off.

Stoick slowly walked up after they had gone.

"You know you are gonna have to tell em sooner or later" he said.

Stoick sighed, watching his son and his friends take off on their dragons into the sky.

"Later" he said, before turning to get back to his own work.

"Lets just hope history don't bite ya in the backside before then" Gobber sighed, turning back to his own work as well.

The Endâ€¦..

* * *

><p>Somewhere in the Ocean:<p>

"Aye! What is that?" one of the Vikings aboard the surviving ships pointed off into the water.

There was a large mass floating within it.

The other standing smiled from his side, "Bring us around! The Capitan is going to be joining us after all."

The others aboard the ship began to laugh, as the ship was brought around and the floating mass in the water came to the side. An arm lifted from it, grabbing onto one of the ropes. Climbing up, a large dark haired man landed heavily on the deck. His eyes full of anger and cold intent, his arm a bit mangled from a certain dragon.

"Set a course for home" he rasped out, "we prepareâ€|.then Berkâ€|willâ€|pay.."

End
file.